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More robberies and anti-social behaviour reported

CONCERN OVER RISE IN CRIME

Report by Alex Ross

CRIME in Halesowen has gone up 17 per cent since the start of the year with sharp rises in robberies and anti-social behaviour.

A study of crime levels in the town found the number of offences recorded went up from 586 in December to 684 in April.

Violent offences went up from 96 to 114, anti-social behaviour from 110 to 128, and weapon possessions from zero to two. But it was robberies which saw the highest increase, from eight to 18.

Speaking at Tuesday's West Midlands strategic and crime board meeting, Deputy Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe said the number of robberies had risen across the force area.

She said most victims appeared to be young with many targeted coming out of pubs and nightclubs.

Operations with plain-clothed police officers were being carried out to catch those responsible.

She added: "We have had some success with those operations and certainly we have seen some reduced numbers when we are focusing on those areas, but of course we find we need to balance those resources with other demands across the organisation."

Commissioner

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said he was concerned about the high number of robberies across the region.

He said robberies had risen from 4,900 to 7,400 a year, impacting one in every 400 people in the West Midlands.

He also raised concerns over the increase in burglaries force-wide.

However, in Halesowen, the number of burglaries did drop from December to April from 100 to 66.

Halesowen councillor David Vickers, who served as a police officer for 28 years, said he was aware of an increase in criminal damage in the area, with damage and thefts at Fingerpost Gardens and Colley Gate. Knife crime and vehicle thefts had also gone up, he added.

He said: "The response from the police, well, there is hardly anything. But you can't blame them because there is hardly enough officers."

JULIE IS HALF THE WOMAN SHE USED TO BE



Before and after – slimmer Julie Jenkins, wearing the same dress, but now weighing in 12st lighter after a year of healthy living

A SLIMMER from Rowley Regis hopes to inspire others after losing nearly half her body weight in 12 months.

Julie Jenkins, of Heartfields Way, weighed almost 29 stone at her heaviest just over a year ago. The 49-year-old suffered from a number of health conditions including diabetes and sleep apnoea. But now, thanks to a combination of exercise and dietary changes, she weighs just over 16-and-a-half stone.

After joining her local Slimming World

group at Blackheath Central Methodist, her weight loss averaged at around 3.5lbs a week.

She said: "I have heard so many times that you won't be able to lose weight until something clicks and that's exactly what happened to me in May 2017. Unhappy with my life and approaching 50, I decided it was time to stop making excuses and take control of my life."

"The more I lost, the more confident I became, and I began to like myself enough to start taking care of my appearance." She now

enjoys walking, playing with her grandchildren and dancing. She is also looking forward to booking her first holiday abroad – and even managed the tricky Christmas, New Year and Easter periods without going off her plan.

Julie said family, Slimming World consultant Ann Deeley and friends at the group had supported her throughout her journey. She added: "I want to inspire people so I started posting my meals on Instagram (@juliejenkins549) and gained over 145 followers."

COURT

Plea date for man charged with murder

A 44-year-old man has appeared in court charged with murder and two counts of attempted murder.

Karl Glancey, of Tividale, was detained under the Mental Health Act following the death of Martin Biggs, 47, who was found with stab wounds at an address in Corngreaves Walk, Cradley Heath, on November 12. The defendant faces two counts of attempted murder and one of wounding in connection with incidents in Cradley Heath and Tividale. He was remanded in custody at Birmingham Crown Court, to appear for a plea hearing on August 3.

COUNCIL

Huge increase in fines for littering

A MAJOR clampdown on littering in Dudley borough has resulted in a huge increase in the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued.

For March, April and May this year more than 1,000 notices have been issued compared with just 14 for the same period last year. Kingdom Enforcement Services, made up of ex-police and military personnel with body cameras, started patrolling in March.

PROTEST

Human chain bid to save playing fields

RESIDENTS opposed to the sale of playing fields in Oldbury are planning to form a human chain as a symbolic gesture in a bid to save them from development.

The Friends of Lion Farm Playing Fields are organising a protest against plans to turn the land, which includes 13 football pitches, into a £200 million shopping centre. The campaigners are urging people to link hands to protect the land as part of a protest organised for Wednesday (June 27) at 6.30pm.

INSIDE

IN THE PINK AT RACE FOR LIFE



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£200k to help community still unspent

TENS of thousands of pounds earmarked to improve Dudley's most deprived wards is sitting in a bank unspent.

Each year the council allocates £240,000 to 24 wards covered by Dudley's ten community forums to improve areas and provide services for disadvantaged groups. But at least six of the forums have large surpluses that remain unspent.

Six forums, covering 12 wards, have £212,000 in their accounts – £92,000 more than they have been allocated this year.

Details of the remaining four forums' bank balances have yet to be published but could push the total underspend well over £100,000.

This month the forums will meet to decide what applications will be funded. Grants range from around £500 to £50,000.

Each forum covers two or three wards which are allocated £10,000 a year each and local councillors decide how the money is spent.

The wards with the largest balances are some of the most deprived in the borough. These include Castle and Priory, St James's and St Thomas with a total of £62,000 and Netherton, Woodside and St. Andrews with Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood at more than £54,000.

Castle and Priory councillor Ken Finch said it needed to be more widely publicised that money is

available. He added: "It's like a secret society with this money hidden away. I could spend £50,000 easy on improving Castle and Priory. Voluntary organisations are crying out for money. Nobody tells you about it. This money should be advertised so the general public are aware it is available."

Even more affluent areas have seen cash go unused, such as Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley which has £46,000 in the bank.

The amounts increase as unspent funds from previous years are carried over.

Figures for Stourbridge, Lye, Halesowen, Cradley and Gornal are yet to be issued.

Charity says disabled are denied wheelchairs

PEOPLE with disabilities across Dudley borough are being refused wheelchairs, according to campaigners.

The charity We Love Carers claims people who are mobile enough to walk around their homes unaided no longer qualify for a wheelchair due to new criteria introduced by health bosses.

The group has launched a Crowd Justice page, which has already raised nearly £2,000, to fund legal action as they believe disabled people have not been listened to.

Rachael Gardner's 14-year-old twin sons Harry and Thomas were born with profound disabilities but she says Harry has been refused a wheelchair when he had been provided with one before. Rachel, who founded the Dudley-based We Love Carers, said that as a result her son was forced to use a wheelchair that's too small for him.

Notified

She said: "We as a charity got notified of the criteria changes towards the end of last year and it basically seems if you can walk in the house, you don't need a chair outside of the house."

"My son can walk but for longer distances it's difficult. His joints can swell up and cause him a lot of pain."

"I know a lot of parents of children and adults who need the chairs have now been refused. It takes away their independence."

Neill Bucktin, a director at Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "We believe that the concerns raised relate to the application of the eligibility criteria by two different service providers. Our policy has always sought to ensure those who are immobile have access to a wheelchair that meets their mobility needs."

"Each person is assessed to understand their mobility needs once a referral to the service is made. Dudley CCG has met with We Love Carers previously and we will be offering another meeting to discuss these concerns."

Albion fans fly the flag in Russia



There may have been a rivalry on the pitch but Albion fans backing England at the World Cup were all smiles with Tunisia supporters. Fans of both teams got together in the city of Volgograd ahead of the clash between England and Tunisia on Monday, before they went on to their 2-1 victory.

Veterans on parade for extra special Forces Day

It's a centenary special at this year's Armed Forces Day, with the Dudley Council event set to mark 100 years since the formation of the Royal Air Force and the end of the First World War during next weekend's event at Himley Hall and its grounds.

Run in association with Black Country Housing Group, the Himley Hall and Park event will celebrate the work of service men and women past and present on Sunday, July 1, from 11am to 5pm.

Entertainment for all the family includes vintage fairground rides, Punch and Judy shows, the Bluebird Belles vocal harmony trio and RAF Cosford Voluntary Band.

Veterans will be presented with their medals and badges and there will be a display of current and historic military vehicles.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Taylor said: "This special event gives us the chance to reflect on the sacrifices that have been made by those who have served and those who continue to serve in the Armed Forces. It is also a wonderful event with a carnival atmosphere and there is something for all ages to enjoy."

For more information people visit www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk/armedforcesday

Storage firm plan unit for Merry Hill

Self storage group Safestore is planning to open a new site in the Black Country.

The unit at Merry Hill, Brierley Hill, is due to open in April, subject to planning permission being obtained.

The Sun Works land would be used for units to rent to private individuals and firms. The site has been derelict since steel firm Bird Stevens went into administration in March 2016.

Safestore, which has an existing site at Oldbury, saw revenue rise 10.5 per cent to £69.2 million for the six months to the end of April with pre-tax profit up 48.9 per cent to £81.9m.

It has plans for four units to open over the next 18 months.

Safestore, founded 20 years ago, is the UK's largest self storage group.

Spate of attempted burglaries in Warley

THERE has been a spate of attempted burglaries in Warley.

The safer neighbourhood West Midlands Police team said there had been a number of attempted burglaries in Walton Road, Cornwall Avenue and Wolverhampton Road.

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Site visit is due on gym and housing application

DOZENS of new homes and a gym could be built along one of the busiest routes in Dudley borough but the plans are facing opposition.

The redevelopment of the Fitness4Less site on Thorns Road in Quarry Bank could see 14 apartments and 19 townhouses created along the road, near the Merry Hill shopping centre. The route is used by around 24,000 vehicles a day.

Applicants Fitness4Less – which already runs a gym at the site – say the existing gym requires ‘significant redevelopment’.

Dudley Council bosses say a site visit has been planned following objections to the plans from nearby residents who fear further traffic congestion, lack of parking and loss of privacy.

Mohammed Hanif, Lye and Stourbridge North ward councillor, said: “There is definitely objections there – I received quite a few. I’m going to visit it and we are going to discuss it from there.

“I will be listening very carefully to the residents in Grosvenor Way, where they are hoping to make the entrance through a very residential area. Parking is very limited and people are already struggling.”

The applicants says the redevelopment would help to reduce the Black Country shortfall of housing, create jobs and boost health via the gym.

Fundraising for Tom has hit £27k

A fundraising page set up in memory of teenage rugby player Tom Mole has hit an incredible £27,000 for Birmingham Children’s Hospital.

Fourteen-year-old Tom, a member of Stourbridge Rugby Club under-14s, died suddenly in April after a short illness. In his memory, players, coaches and fans from the club will be taking part in a Walk for Tom on Saturday at 10am starting at the hospital – where Tom was treated – and taking a 20-mile route to the club’s Stourton Park ground. Coach Mark Denison said it was ‘fantastic’ to see how much support the walk was received so far.

Tom from Wollaston, was a pupil at the Oldswinford Hospital school. Visit justgiving.com/fundraising/srfcu14 to donate.

Irish duo in concert

IRISH folk duo Mick Foster and Tony Allen will be performing in Dudley. Foster and Allen are in concert at Dudley Town Hall on November 16. Tickets £26.50. Call (01384) 812812.

Two per cent pay rise for council officers



Sarah Norman now paid £166,650

SENIOR officers at Dudley Council will see their combined pay packets increase by more than £20,000 after local government employers and trade union officials agreed an improved national pay offer.

The increase will see the total wage bill for the chief executive Sarah Norman, and 10 other directors, rise to £1,198,399 a year after the deal is agreed by the local authority.

Overall, the executive wage bill at Dudley Council will increase by £30,000 when including employer’s national insurance contributions and

superannuation. The pay increase brings senior officers in line with other council staff, who also agreed a two per cent increase for the next two years.

Sarah Norman’s pay will now rise to £169,983 from £166,650, backdated to April this year.

The trade union for local authority senior officers, ALACE, accepted a revised pay offer of two per cent for this year and next after rejecting an initial offer of only one per cent.

Accepting the offer on behalf of her members Tracey Lee, chair of

ALACE, said: “We warmly welcome the improved offer from the employers, which we have accepted at once. We are grateful for the employers’ further consideration of our claim following the initial offer in April which ALACE was not able to accept.”

Councillor Simon Phipps, Dudley Council’s cabinet member for human resources, said: “The council participates in national pay bargaining. The offer of a two per cent increase for senior officers is in line with the pay increase already agreed for other staff.”

New policy after baby's death may save others

PARAMEDICS called out to babies aged 12 months and under now have to take them to hospital to be seen by a consultant, following the death of a six-week old baby in Dudley earlier this year.

The change in policy was confirmed during an inquest on Sienna Helen James at the Black Country Coroner’s Court last week.

The inquest heard that Sienna’s mother, Nichola Ray, from Stourbridge, had called West Midlands Ambulance on the evening of Saturday, February 10, after her baby started crying out in pain and nothing could be done to ease her distress.

Paramedic Matthew Floyd and trainee paramedic Beth Anslow carried out checks and found nothing untoward and advised the family to take her in their own car to the Urgent Care Centre at Russells Hall Hospital – as they felt it would be quicker for them to do so.

The following night Sienna’s parents fed her and put her to bed, but on the morning of Monday, February 12, she had died.

Pathologist Tamas Marton recorded a medical cause of death as unascertained, a term used for sudden infant death syndrome or cot death.

Investigation

Joanne Kavanagh, who carried out an investigation for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said as a result of the case patients aged under 12 months now had to be reviewed by a consultant at hospital.

Ms Ray, giving evidence at the inquest, said Sienna had been a generally healthy baby, born in December 2017, but on the Saturday she had noticed a rash on her face.

She said: “The first week of February she had been fine and on the Saturday night before she passed away she was in pain and crying. I called an ambulance out to her that evening. They checked her over and said it was stomach ache.

“I was not really reassured. I did everything to comfort her but it did not help and she was still crying. Then on the Sunday she had her last feed at about 12.30am and went to sleep. We woke at 4.45am and that is when we found her passed away.”

Paramedic Matthew Floyd said they had arrived



Baby Sienna Helen James died aged just six weeks

at around 7.30pm on Saturday to carry out an assessment on Sienna. He said they were told that she was quite unsettled through the day and then all the tests and observations they carried out were normal. He added that the only abnormality was a slight rash on the right side of her jaw.

Ms Kavanagh told the inquest that a highest level investigation was launched after baby Sienna’s death.

She said: “Better history of both mother and baby should have been taken. Looking at the appropriate history, age of patient, crew experience and experience of mother suggested that the patient needed further assessment.

“As a result of this case, those under 12 months have to be reviewed by a consultant. She should have gone into hospital and there would have been that safety net there.”

Coroner Mr Zafar Siddique recorded an open conclusion into the death of Sienna and offered his condolences to the family. He said: “It has been



Sienna's parents Nichola Ray and Richard James

accepted it would have been safer to take child to hospital because of policies which have now been enforced. Lessons have been learnt, further recommendations and learning has been given.

“It is not clear to me what the cause of death was – it could have been cot death or sudden infant death syndrome. Having heard all of the evidence I record an open conclusion.”

Father Richard James said: “If they had taken her to hospital she might have still been here – she would have had a better chance.” Grandmother Helen Ray said of the new policy: “It is too little, too late. Sienna’s death can save another baby if nothing else.”

Following the hearing, a West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: “The trust would like to offer its condolences to the family. The trust continuously reviews if further improvements can be made to its practice and procedures and is introducing additional education to all clinicians around the care of children.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

World Cup offer at leisure centres

MEMBERSHIP costs at Dudley’s local authority leisure centres have been reduced to coincide with the World Cup.

Dudley Council is offering discounted memberships of £20.18 a month at Crystal, Dudley and Halesowen leisure centres – a saving of £9.32 a month.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise, said: “This is a great offer and will help people inspired by the World Cup to get fit over the summer. The offer is open to new customers only. Call 01384 812800 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport website.

MP hosting third apprentice fair

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood, is organising an Apprenticeship Fair for young people. The event will take place next Friday, June 29, from 2 to 4pm at the Art & Design Centre, Venture Way, Brierley Hill.

In attendance will be companies including Barclays Bank, NHS, Tesco, Dudley Council, Creative Alliance, Aldi, Mitchell & Butlers, Police, colleges and more. Mr Wood said, “I am very much looking forward to hosting my third annual apprenticeship fair.” For details call (01384) 913123 or email mike.wood.mp@parliament.uk

Top brass to visit Dudley Town Hall

THE famous Brighouse & Rastrick Band – the national champion band of Britain – will be joining Langley Band’s 140th anniversary celebrations at Dudley Town Hall on July 8.

The 5pm concert will be a joint celebration involving both highly rated brass bands.

Tickets are £12 (£8 for under-16s) available from Dudley Town Hall box office, online at www.boroughhalls.co.uk or by calling (01384) 812812.

Meanwhile, Langley Band’s summer concerts are at the Barlow Theatre, Langley on July 20 and 21.

Floral art on show at St John's this weekend

A TOWN centre church is holding a three-day flower festival.

The event is being held in St John the Baptist Church in High Street, Halesowen, and runs from tomorrow (Friday) to Sunday June 24.

The theme for the floral extravaganza is arts and crafts in flowers.

The church will be open to visitors from 10am to 4pm on Friday and Saturday and then from 11am to 4pm on Sunday.

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Talks over rolling out 'average speed' cameras across region

TALKS are getting under way to bring more speed cameras back to the Black Country.

Police are to meet with a representative of each of the four Black Country councils to discuss rolling out more average speed cameras back across the region.

The move comes five years after static speed cameras were turned off and follows a successful pilot scheme of the average speed cameras in Birmingham and Solihull.

Steel firm opens new £27m site

A STEEL firm has celebrated its half century with the opening of a £27 million new factory in Oldbury.

The Steel & Alloy Processing site in Popes Lane is equipped with state-of-the-art machinery and will mean the creation of around 60 jobs.

It was built on the site of what used to be the Albright High School until 1983 and was later Sandwell Council's Training and Development Centre.

It provides another 115,000 sq ft of factory space for the company - owned by Spanish firm Gonvarri Steel Services - to expand even further.

Based at the Trafalgar Works in West Bromwich, Steel & Alloy employs more than 200 people across sites in Darlaston, Cannock and Smethwick. It specialises in processing steel for the automotive industry and customers include JLR and BMW.

The cameras record the speed of vehicles between two locations.

Speaking at West Midlands Strategic Policing and Crime Board meeting on Tuesday, Superintendent Dean Hatton said: "We are two years into a five-year contract that has helped to reduce the average speed across the speed enforcement sites."

"We are now in talks with Coventry and the western local authorities. We are meeting in the next few weeks to see how the cameras could work across these areas."

Benefits

Chief Inspector Gareth Mason said: "It is still very early, but given evidence from Solihull and Birmingham trials we are seeing how it can bring benefits to other areas. We are looking at the costs involved for police and authorities and possible locations."

"We already look at how we can continually improve speed enforcement and have 161 mobile sites for enforcement."

"I would be surprised if none of those were chosen for average speed cameras."

In April, Dudley Council said it had no plans for the cameras, while Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell councils were considering them.

Halesowen lawyer retires after 40 years



Mr Price, centre, with colleagues Patricia Venables, Nick O'Hara, Michelle Hetheridge and Abigail Wells

ONE of the Black Country's most most experienced lawyers is to retire this month after more than 40 years of working in the profession.

Richard Price, son of the late Eric Price who was a former Justices' Clerk of Halesowen and Stourbridge, began training in the late 1970s, was admitted as a solicitor in 1982 and is a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives. He has worked for many years in Halesowen and specialised in wills,

trusts, probate and the administration of estates, powers of attorney, protection work and law relating to people with learning disabilities.

Mr Price joined Thursfields Solicitors in 2013 when the company opened its office in Halesowen, where he then also specialised in residential and commercial conveyancing.

Nick O'Hara, managing director of Thursfields, said: "We were very fortunate to have secured the services of

Richard for the last five years of his career, and he's been a great asset to Thursfields."

Mr Price said: "I feel lucky to have enjoyed my entire career in my home town of Halesowen, hopefully carrying on the family's legal traditions planted in the town by my late father. It's been a pleasure working with and helping local people."

Mr Price is looking forward to spending more time with his family.

First aiders shocked by centre closure

ST John Ambulance is to close its base in Brierley Hill after 125 years.

The building in Bent Street has been put up for sale and leaders have been left shocked by the decision from the charity's headquarters in London.

It is believed to be on the market for £150,000. The base was rebuilt in 1997 and after a £100,000 fundraising drive was reopened by Princess Margaret. It is due to close for the final time next month.

St John celebrated 125 years in the town earlier this year.

Youth leader Lee Batham said those behind sessions for around 80 children have been able to secure Pensnett Community Centre, but the adult group had not yet found a new base.

The 42-year-old from Pensnett, who has been involved with St John since 1993, said: "They didn't give us any chance to appeal. Now we have lost our unit we haven't got an identity. I hope it doesn't affect the youth coming through."

Philip Walker, St John estate programme manager, said: "We are reviewing all properties across the country to ensure that as a charity we make best use of our resources. A decision has been made to close the Brierley Hill building. We remain committed to providing first aid in and around Brierley Hill."

Forum meetings across borough

LATEST community forum meetings: Monday, Coseley East/Sedgley at Christchurch C of E Primary School; Tuesday, Amblecote, Cradley, Wollescote, Lye and Stourbridge at Lye Community Centre; Gornal/Woodseton at Baggeridge Social. All at 6.30pm.

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Firm is fined £40k over worker's fall

A ROOFING contractor has been fined £40,000 after an employee fell through a skylight while working on a Sandwell Council property.

The employee of Woodhull Roofing Ltd broke several ribs and suffered spinal injuries in the 13-feet fall at the council's property on Spinners End Industrial Estate, Cradley Heath.

Woodhull Roofing Ltd was contracted to carry out roof repairs at the empty property for Sandwell Council.

The job was to coat roofing bolts in an asbestos cement roof to seal leaks.

But Dudley Magistrates Court heard how workmen were on the roof with no safety measures in place to prevent them from falling.

While working on the corrugated roof, a worker misplaced his footing while moving a board into another position, causing him to step on the roof light.

He fell through the roof onto a concrete floor below. The employee broke several ribs and suffered spinal injuries in the fall on November 9 last year.

Executive

The court heard how an investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found roof work was not undertaken using the correct precautions – sufficient platforms, coverings, guard rails, netting or similar means of support or protection.

Sandwell Council's health and safety team also carried out a full investigation. The council found that the contractor had failed to provide a safe working platform and fall arrest system to stop or break the fall of the contractor working at height on a fragile roof.

Woodhull Roofing Ltd, of Stratford Road, Shirley, pleaded guilty to breaching regulation nine (two) of the Work and Height Regulations 2005.

It was fined £40,000 and ordered to pay costs £495.27.

Parents furious as closure sees pupils sent to various schools

Doctor's car stolen by cat flap burglars

AN on-call doctor's car was stolen after burglars broke into his Black Country home – taking his keys and also his hospital pass. In the early hours.

Dr Ahmed Gilani, who works on the intensive care unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, discovered his black Mini Cooper, wallet and hospital pass had been stolen from his home in Tividale in the early hours of Tuesday (June 12). Police believe the burglar or burglars got into the house via the cat flap.

The doctor has now had to go on leave and is concerned about its effect on his job.

"The NHS is already in a crisis when it comes to doctors and it's not easy to find replacements so it had a knock-on effect with my work," he said. "They also took my wallet and with that my hospital pass so it's extremely concerning vulnerable people in the hospital could have been in danger but I made sure that was the first thing I cancelled. There's also the worry about them having my identity, it's extremely concerning."

A spokesman for West Midlands Police said: "It is believed entry was gained into the house via the cat flap. They have searched the property before leaving with a wallet and a black Mini Cooper from the drive. Investigations are on-going and anyone with any information is asked to call police on 101 quoting crime reference number 20SW/130673Q/18."



Dr Ahmed Gilani outside his home showing a screenshot of his stolen Mini

FURIOUS parents have hit out at an 'unacceptable' decision to place children at five schools across Sandwell following flood damage to their school in Oldbury.

Causeway Green School has had to relocate pupils as repair work is taking longer than expected.

It has thrown parents' arrangements into chaos with some having their children placed at different schools. The school day will also finish earlier, at 2.30pm and 1pm on Fridays, to avoid overcrowding. The school in Pennicricket Lane suffered major damage in flash flooding last month. It had been expected to reopen after half-term.

Children have not attended school for three weeks and parents have been dismayed by the temporary solution of placing different year groups at schools elsewhere.

Casey Byrne's three children, aged nine, seven and six, have been placed at Perryfields Primary School, the Q3 Academy and Brandhall Primary School. The school kitchen assistant said: "I don't drive so I have got to take public transport. I have already had to take unpaid leave from work. Each year group is at a different school. I don't know why they have decided to do it like that when a lot of children at the school have siblings."

Gemma Phipps said: "I am astounded that the local council and the school itself believe that the reasonable alternative is to not only send all three of my children to different schools but to also amend the school hours."

Councillor Simon Hackett, Sandwell Council cabinet member for children's services, said: "The council has agreed to provide a coach to deliver and collect children to and from their host schools for families with three or more children."

Dave is ready for the Black Country Run

BLIND Dave Heeley is taking part in this year's Black Country Road Run, joining West Midlands Mayor Andy Street and Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

The 10km and family fun run takes place in Halesowen on July 1. It is organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club.

Mr Heeley, from West Bromwich, will be taking part for the seventh year. He said: "It's a race I always enjoy doing and the only one I dress up in costume. This year I'm thinking about going as a leprechaun."

He plans to run the 10km, at 10am, and the family fun run at 11am.

He added: "The best thing about the race is the ice cream parlour half-way round, it's fantastic."

See www.theblackcountryrun.com for further details on the event, which this year also introduces a corporate challenge.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Gunners' aid cash is a kick in the teeth

AS our Government prepares to hand over £62 million this year in aid to Rwanda, the country's dictator Paul Kagame has decided to return the favour by giving half of it back to his favourite football team, Arsenal.

Mr Kwagame, whose citizens typically live on about £1 a day, has decided the best way to improve the lot of his people is to sponsor the Gunners to the tune of £10m a year for the next three years.

And in return, the new Arsenal kit will have the logo Visit Rwanda emblazoned across the chest.

And Paul and his mates will be able to make full use of a hospitality box at Arsenal home games. What's not to like?

On hearing that news, my first thought was 'why don't we ever give overseas aid to dictators who support Aston Villa?' Boy, judging from the events of the past couple of weeks, the Claret and Blue Army could certainly use £30m.

And giving money to Villa would certainly be closer to the ideal of helping the less fortunate in the world than handing it over to the billionaires of north London.

But joking apart, how can this be a good use of taxpayers' money, at least for non-Arsenal supporting taxpayers?

Now I'm not one of the naysayers who harrumphs 'charity begins at home' every time the subject of international aid is mentioned. I do believe that as long as there is starvation in the world, that those of us who are fortunate to find ourselves among the richest one per cent of the world have a responsibility to do what we can to help.

And also, from a purely pragmatic point of view, if people in the world's poorest countries have access to decent food and medicine, they are less likely to stow-away in the back of lorries and end up living on the streets of Britain.

What is stupid, though, is the arbitrary target of 0.7 per of GDP set by David Cameron, which determines that a fixed amount of money has to be handed over to developing countries, irrespective of what the actual need is.

Some years there will be an argument for spending more than 0.7 per cent of GDP, some years we probably need to spend less.

But when the need to give away taxpayers' money just to meet a politically correct target results in millions being indirectly donated to a moneybags football team from north London, it is not only wasteful and immoral – it is also a spectacular own goal.

Historic summit with leader playing his Trump card



Poldark's shirtless scene gets people talking, or does it? Answers on a postcard...



Trump gets tough with G7 leaders, and then cosies up with Kim Jong-Un in North Korea



Graduates to become a detective in three months? Sherlock didn't need university

Get it off your chest as Poldark returns

"SHIRTLESS Poldark Gets Everyone Talking" (BBC headline). Not in this column, it doesn't.

LIFE among Guardian readers is as fraught as ever. One writes to an agony aunt "My girlfriend wants a polysexual relationship. I don't. What should we do?" Isn't it obvious? Shoot the parrot.

A READER, lamenting the closure of local banks, wonders whether they might be able to keep a few more branches open if only they reduced the "obscene" bonuses paid to some bank bosses. Nice idea but that would mean banks treating their customers as though they valued them. Under the present arrangements the banks regard customers as numbers while spending millions of pounds on TV adverts pretending that they really, really value us. Anyone else sick to death of black horses?

WE are on holiday this week in Beer, Devon, and came upon a strange incident down the coast in Seaton where a dog, chained outside a shop, managed to get a foot caught in its lead and was yelping for help. What would you do? While you're mentally rehearsing your own heroism, I should point out that this agitated dog was a huge English bull terrier with jaws like T-rex. Massive respect to the old chap who, knowing nothing about this beast, coolly stepped forward to untangle it, and promptly got a good licking as the terrier's new best friend, while the rest of us dithered.

I ONCE worked on a newspaper founded in

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



1805 and I spent hours poring through old editions. One advert, from 1806, was headed "For the inspection of the curious." It described an exhibition of gallstones, some tiny and others huge, recently extracted from the guts of a cow. Back in 1805 people actually paid to see such things. How laughable, how primitive and how much we have changed. You think? This week one news website was offering, for the inspection of the curious: "Watch a huge Galapagos tortoise eat a cactus at San Diego Zoo." We don't change that much. I bet today's internet generation would pack the town square to ogle a public execution.

TALKING of which, in the entire history of English courts, were felons ever reprieved on the gallows and allowed to walk away scot-free, as seen in Poldark? Having been spared the most terrible punishment of death by hanging, the sentence would surely be commuted to the second-worst punishment, being forced to be Australians.

WE are told that Trump's sharp words after the G7 were intended to make him look tough before the North Korea talks. If so, it was a high-risk strategy. What if Angela Merkel had pinched his nose and made him cry?

MORE mysteries of the digital age. Friends came to visit us down here in Devon and texted us from Honiton, just eight miles up the road. They got here before their text arrived.

ANOTHER digital mystery. Having accidentally dunked my camera in Loch Lomond last month, I am using another old one which takes photos, displays them briefly but then seemed to consume them without trace. Turns out it has been filing them away in the section of its memory dated 2012, possibly because Beer, Devon in 2018 is almost identical to Beer, Devon in 2012. Or in 1812 for that matter.

AND before the techies among you rush to say it is possible to save a camera after it has been soaked, it really isn't. There may be online accounts of cameras being brought back to life by total immersion in dried rice, by the extremely quick-thinking and well-prepared but, as a rule, the battery is knackered one nano-second after hitting the water and the electronics a nano-second later. You can try the dried-rice remedy on your dripping camera but the misted lenses, like the eyes of a dying animal, tell the true story. The kindest thing is to bin it.

MINISTERS have announced a new project to turn graduates into detectives in just three months. As long as that? How much training does it take to say over the phone: "We can't get anyone there until Wednesday. Have you contacted Victim Support? Here's your crime number..." It's not all Sherlock.

TALKING POINT



Waiters' term takes on guise of insincerity

IF there is one thing guaranteed to make a visit to a restaurant less enjoyable these days it is the way that waiting staff seem to think it is essential to refer to customers as 'guys'. I am not glad to be guy (apologies to Tom Robinson), in fact the term is starting to get on my pips.

During a meal recently my wife and I were referred to repeatedly as 'guys'. What would you like to drink guys? Are you ready to order guys? Is everything OK guys? Can we take your plates guys? Would you like to see the sweet menu guys?

I accept that their use of the term was intended in a friendly manner and that they had probably been told to use it by their boss because it is widely considered to be informal and gender neutral.

I didn't expect for us to be called sir or madam (well, I might if it was the Ritz) but the over use of the term becomes grating especially when there is no need to add 'guys' to any of the above sentences anyway.

It's not that I think it is a sexist term, I doubt it is ever used to make females feel ill at ease and I think it far more likely a group of women would take issue with being addressed as 'dolls' or 'gals'.

It is just so American, a term that one might expect in a US burger joint.

Frankly, I would even prefer 'bab', 'chick' or 'cocker' to 'guys', at least that would make me laugh and has a certain Black Country charm.

Like much American slang, the word guy has made a transatlantic journey and come back with a different meaning. Britain and America are, after all, two nations divided by a common language (an observation first attributed to George Bernard Shaw).

The original word does go back to Guy Fawkes, the infamous gunpowder plotter.

It found use in the feverish paranoid atmosphere of 17th century Britain when the new Protestant establishment feared Roman Catholics backed by France and Spain were plotting against them. Back then a group of 'guys' were shady looking characters with dubious, probably criminal, intent. In American it became a colloquial phrase with more positive connotations, meaning a group of friends, colleagues or team-mates.

The problem is that 'guys' is such a lazy, hollow cliché of a word that is smacks of insincerity even when the intention is to be welcoming, warm and friendly.

So please, hard-working waiting staff everywhere, drop the 'guys'... and don't get me started on 'folks'.

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Cradley was our theatre of war during 70s

THERE was somewhat of a buzz in our house recently, caused by the report in your paper regarding a hand grenade found in a garage in Cradley.

I have imparted the story of my childhood summer of playing war games with hand grenades and gas masks to my daughters many times, to which they roll their eyes and pass off as mum's made up fancy. Until with a certain air of 'I told you so' I flaunted the newspaper under their noses. Mum was vindicated - let me enlighten you.

During the long summer holidays of the late 1970s all the kids from Fur-

long Lane, Hillside Avenue, Hillbank Road, Elmtree Grove and Timberdine Close would play out from breakfast to supper time. All the usual games. Tick, treasure hunt, kick the can, etc.

However, one summer - approximately 1977/8 - we came across a stash of World War Two ammunition. We found piles of useful junk inside a large barn-like building. We came across hidden boxes of bullets, hand grenades and gas masks. Our new game was decided, we would be at war!

We split the grenades and set off to the 70 Steps Field to play. We stalked

our opponents throwing the grenades before running off and regrouping. At the end of the day they would be collected up and stored ready for the next time. We were convinced that if you kept the pins in they were safe.

At the end of that summer we made our own time capsule and hid it. Perhaps that may have been what was found a few weeks ago. We found up to 50 grenades that summer so I would not be surprised if more came to light at our theatre of war.

DEBBIE HOWELLS (CATTON)
Cradley

Enjoying the job Mrs May?

I WONDER if Mrs May in her reflective moments ever regrets taking on the role of Prime Minister? She is attacked by backstabbing duplicitous members of her own Government which is full of parasites.

Then she has the spectre of that divisive double-talking demagogue doing his best to hasten her downfall. You then have to add into the mix a continent full of politicians who will smile and show a great deal of deference to you whilst at the same time plotting to cause pain to the whole nation.

Of course the icing on Mrs May's cake is further from these isles, she also has to somehow deal on some level with a misogynistic, narcissistic and corrupt power-mad autocrat.

So Mrs May do you ever wonder if you reached out for a poisoned chalice in 2016?

JOHN GREEN
Sedgley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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If we cannot reach a resolution contact Ipsos at complaints@ipso.co.uk or by post at Ipsos, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 3LG

Why would someone buy a zombie knife?

RE: Zombie knives. I am sure that I heard a retailer say that he was doing no wrong by supplying these and other knives of a similar nature.

It does not take much to imagine the likely answers to the need to purchase one.

I need it to cut my steak, or I need it to clean out my fingernails or I need it to clear my way through my back garden as my neighbours have complained about the state of it.

Surely the purchaser would not say that I need it to defend myself against other purchasers of these weapons, it's defensive!

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

Afraid over driverless car future

AM I the only one who seems to be concerned about the event of driverless cars. I would never dream of getting into a driverless car.

There has already been at least one fatality in America when a driverless car failed to apply the brakes.

One thing is for certain, anything that relies on computerisation will at some time fail, because that's what computers do on a regular basis.

But I wouldn't only be afraid to get into a driverless car, I would also be afraid to drive a normal car on the road if driverless cars were on my route and I would be afraid to walk on the pavement.

I would even be afraid to sit in my own living room as I have had three cars crash into my front garden wall over the years. If driverless cars are the future, then God help us.

MR J WESTLEY
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Future of shopping is to be pioneered at Merry Hill

NEW technologies that will reduce carbon emissions and deliver shoppers' bags straight to their cars will be piloted at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Intu is carrying out trials across its 14 UK shopping centres, including Merry Hill, from this summer as part of its pioneering programme Intu Accelerate. It has signed up seven start-up companies, selected from 97 applicants, who will test their innovative ideas to shape the future of retail.

See PM's least favourite comedian

TV comic Lee Nelson is to headline the next big comedy night at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in October.

The comedian, real name Simon Brodtkin, has hit the headlines for a number of high-profile stunts, including handing Prime Minister Theresa May a P45 during her speech at the Conservative Party conference.

But it is as Nelson that Brodtkin is best known, having had two of his own BBC series, Lee Nelson's Well Good Show and Lee Nelson's Well Funny People.

He will headline Live At The Civic on October 20. He will be supported by Dane Baptiste, who has also appeared on Live At The Apollo as well as Mock The Wee, and Adam Rowe, a young comic from Liverpool. The night will be hosted by Dudley's Wayne Beebe.

Tickets costing £22 are now available at www.bhillecivic.co.uk/whats-on/comedy

The new businesses have been invited to work the company to develop their products and services over a 10-week period. Intu Accelerate is now in its second year following the success of last year's initiative which trialled retail robots, queue jumping apps and online personal shoppers.

Specialists

It is again being run in partnership with innovation specialists L Marks. The companies taking part are:

CarTap, providing secure access to vehicles to deliver shoppers' bags straight to their cars.

Grid Edge, which saves money and reduces carbon emissions by using artificial intelligence to control energy usage.

Rhythm, creator multiplayer games for big screens that connect companies with crowds of people.

WeFiFo, an online marketplace that connects amateur and professional chefs with paying guests.

Greendeck, which uses artificial intelligence to help fashion brands and retailers automatically classify products into categories.

Yosh.AI, a virtual assistant that provides a personal shopping service.

Royalty, turns anonymous social media data into customer insight.

Cycle superstar Sir Chris to meet his fans



Sir Chris Hoy will be speaking at Birmingham Town Hall in September

OLYMPIC cyclist Sir Chris Hoy will speak to fans in Birmingham this autumn, following the launch of his new book *How to Ride a Bike*.

The 42-year-old sports star from Scotland is one of Great Britain's most successful Olympic athletes of all time, with six gold medals and one silver.

He was also voted 2008 BBC Sports Personality of the Year and was awarded a knighthood in the 2009.

He joined his first cycling club in 1990, aged 14, and began concentrating on track cycling in 1993, when he joined the City of Edinburgh Racing Club.

Fitter

In 2016 Chris added to his record list of achievements when he finished the world's most demanding motor-sport endurance race, the Le Mans 24 Hours, on his debut.

His new book is a guide to becoming a fitter and faster cyclist. This book brings together the technical, physical and mental aspects of cycling performance, using advanced training methods and expertise he has gained over the years. He will discuss his book and career in cycling when he brings his show *How to Ride a Bike* to Birmingham Town Hall on September 18.

Tickets are now on sale, priced between £18 and £28. For more information, or to book tickets, go online to www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

6,000 trees axed across Black Country

MORE than 6,000 trees have been lost in the Black Country over the past three years and more than half were cut down by Dudley Council.

The authority, which has no replanting programme, spent £684,000 taking down the trees from 2014 to 2017. A total of 6,359 have been felled across the Black Country in the time, a Freedom of Information request has revealed. Campaigners fear many others have also been lost through private felling in the same period.

Dudley cut down 3,227 trees, Sandwell axed 2,070, Walsall 901 and Wolverhampton 161.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services said: "Trees play an important role in our communities, filtering air, acting as a haven for wildlife, creating attractive landscapes and generally contributing to community wellbeing, which is why we only fell trees that pose a high risk to people or property."

Dangerous

"Many of the trees felled are self sets and have not been specifically planted. We will also consider felling if the tree is diseased, damaged, dangerous or dying."

"We don't have a replacement programme as such, but we would encourage landowners such as private tenants, schools and businesses to replace their own stock. We do seek sponsorship ourselves to invest in new tree stock at suitable locations, such as the 70 plus trees we planted with the help of local businesses on Birmingham New Road."

Trees can be protected by Tree Preservation Orders. Trees within conservation areas require a planning application to remove them.

Andi Mohr, chairman of the West Midlands Green Party, said: "When we have 3,000 people a year dying early in the West Midlands because of our dirty air, it's madness to remove so many trees that clean our air."

ADVERTISEMENT

A new life

When former specialist nurse Sheila Haycock finally found a solution for her failing teeth she quite literally received a prescription for a new life . . . and so did her husband, Dave.

Emotionally broken by a catalogue of dental disasters, for a whole year she suffered pain every day and her confidence plummeted. "Each day was a nightmare."

"Every day I'd have a new ulcer in my mouth. I couldn't eat properly, stopped going out and couldn't face looking at myself in a mirror – in fact, I'd cover them up."

"I'd speak and laugh with my hand in front of my mouth, avoid having my picture taken and couldn't chew properly – if I did go out, I'd always have to order lasagne because it was soft food," she recalls.

Terrified of dentist

Sheila's problems began when her natural teeth became mobile and braved her worst fears, having a full clearance to make way for an upper and lower denture.

Terrified of the dentist, she adds: "I thought it was impossible for things to get worse, but nothing could have prepared me for the next 12 months. The first time I took my teeth out and looked in the mirror, psychologically, I was beside myself."



Sheila and Dave Haycock - a new outlook on life

"I'd been so preoccupied with mastering my fear of the dentist, I hadn't worked through the impact of losing my teeth would have on me. It was devastating."

Initially, Dave confesses to "not being that helpful," explaining her native teeth "needed to go and to deal with it."

"I know, I told him," says Sheila, "but they were mine!"

Even the loss of a single tooth is now clinically recognised as a potential precursor for a mourning process.

Adds Dave: "She was upset and I felt utterly helpless. The guilt of it all . . ."

I wanted to help, but couldn't. I could eat what ever I wanted, but she couldn't and every day – every day – there was a new problem to address."

Retired nurse Sheila got a new smile after a year of dental misery, husband Dave admits he too is now enjoying the life changes it's brought about.

Predictably reassuring

My experience with Steven and his team was the best. Getting the implants really is money well spent.

- Roy Phillpott

Steven's professionalism gave me the confidence and assurance that they could resolve my problem.

- Norma Aston

When I first saw my teeth I thought they looked just like my real teeth.

- Vicki Ball

it over and over again. I was not coping."

Taking advice from her daughter, who had received a recommendation from a work colleague that North Street Dental and Implant Clinic could help, Sheila headed for Dudley.

"Within 15 minutes of walking in to the surgery Steven [practice principal Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng)] was helping me," she says.

As a temporary measure, an oral impression was taken and her painful dentures lined with a soft material that would help ease the discomfort and improve fit.

'Own teeth'

Sheila was prescribed a traditional top prosthetic and a lower over-denture, retained on two implants. The surgery was carried out under sedation by North Street's clinical lead, Owain Rees BDS DGD(UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC61576.

"All I can say is that it has completely changed my life. There's nothing I can't eat and the implant prosthetic doesn't feel false. It's comparable for me to my own teeth. When I first saw my new teeth in the mirror, I thought who's this person? They looked natural, just like real teeth," says Sheila.

Dave, a former civil engineer, adds: "She's completely different. It's been life-changing for me too and we can now get on with our retirement."

Both keen gardeners, they agree the financial investment is in a quality life choice. "It's the best thing she's ever had done," adds Dave.

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History repeats itself with latest link road

IT has been described as a revival of the controversial Western Orbital motorway – and these images show that a proposed new link road around the Black Country looks almost identical to a plan from years gone by.

Bosses at Midlands Connect have recommended a relief road linking the M5 with the M6/M6 Toll as the best way to bust congestion on the region's clogged roads.

They say the Western Strategic Route could shift one fifth of traffic travelling through the region from the M6 in the north and M5 in the south.

While bosses are keen to point out that no exact route has been identified, a map included in a report by Midlands Combined Authority shows it passing near to Codsall, Perton, Pattingham, Wombourne, Dudley, Stourbridge and Kidderminster.

It appears to be a mirror image of the Western Orbital motorway, which was scrapped in the 1990s and then again in the 2000s over environmental and financial concerns.

A map printed in the Express & Star in March 1989 shows the preferred route agreed by transport bosses at the time. As with the new Midlands Connect planned road, it started at the M5 in Bromsgrove and snaked up past Stourbridge and into South Staffordshire, passing Wombourne, Trysull, Codsall, on its way to meet the M54.

The similarity in the two routes has not been lost on critics. Birmingham Friends of the Earth described it as the revival of the Western Orbital motorway, and urged Midlands Connect to ditch its plans.



1989 – proposed Western Orbital route



2018 – latest proposed route

Campaign to help lonely elderly

COUNCIL bosses are launching a four-week campaign this week to support lonely elderly people in the borough.

Dudley Council's 'Pleased to Meet You' campaign offers older people who may be feeling isolated or lonely the chance to talk and meet others.

People aged 60 and over can call the telephone line for a chat, where a

council officer will provide them with support and advice. The council is also starting up groups who can meet to socialise and take part in various activities.

The 'Pleased to Meet You' campaign launches today (Thursday). For more information, call 01384 812761 or email communitysup@portserv@dudley.gov.uk

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Quack thinking rescuers save ducklings from drain

IT is an old cliché that firefighters climb trees to rescue cats – but one crew was forced to delve underground to save a family of ducklings.

Firefighters were called in to help by a concerned member of the public to save the baby ducks which had fallen into a deep drain in Coseley.

A woman called for help after being alerted to the ducklings' plight by the mother duck who was in distress near the drain.

She then peered into the drain to see the ducklings chirping from a puddle beneath the road.

The metal drain, in Weddell Wynd, was pulled up so crews could reach the seven ducklings that were trapped.

Fall

Thankfully, the stranded birds were pulled to safety and appeared unruffled by their fall after being found paddling in a puddle of water at the bottom of the drain.

The ducks are thought to have come from the nearby Weddell Wynd woodland but found their travels brought to an abrupt halt when they tumbled down the drain.

Unfortunately, by the time crews arrived the ducklings' mother had left the area and, despite a search of the area, could not be found.

Firefighters from West Bromwich Fire Station attended and were able to remove the drain cover to get to the birds.

The fluffy litter creatures were then carefully pulled out of the drain.

Crew commander Andrew Papworth, from West Bromwich Fire Station, said: "We were called by a local resident from the nearby area.



The ducklings were kept together in a bucket but mother duck had gone



The little ducks were stuck at the bottom of a drainage shaft in Coseley

The caller was alerted to a distressed mother duck. Seven ducklings had found their way into the drain.

"They had fallen through the grating in the drain cover and unfortunately ended up stranded in the water in the drain.

"They were about a foot and a half below the drain," explained Mr Papworth. "We managed to lift the drain and rescue the seven ducklings.

They were put in one of our buckets to keep them safe."

Crews were called to the incident at around 8.20am on Thursday.

As the ducklings' mother could not be found, the firefighters arranged for them to be handed over to the care of the RSPCA.

Crew commander Papworth added: "We tried to locate the mother but unfortunately we couldn't find her.

"The ducklings were left with the caller and I made arrangements with the RSPCA to collect them."

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Or email CommunitySupportServ@dudley.gov.uk

12

MP Tom in call for a rethink on standing

TOM Watson has urged the Government to reconsider Albion's bid to introduce a safe standing section at The Hawthorns.

The deputy Labour leader had backed the Baggies' bid to run a pilot scheme in the top tier of the Smethwick End next season, but the plans were rejected by ministers in April.

Now his fellow Labour MP Rosena Allin-Khan has submitted a written question to the Government asking them to reconsider the refusal.

The Government is to review the issue of standing at matches in the Premier League and Championship, with a debate scheduled in Parliament for June 25.

West Bromwich East MP Mr Watson said: "The Government ignored the advice from safety authorities when they rejected West Brom's application to introduce safe standing two months ago. I would hope that the Government will now reconsider this decision given that they now wish to review seated-only stadia."

Ms Allin-Khan said: "Labour has listened to fans across the country and is proud to support the introduction of safe standing at football matches."

"The Government could use West Brom's proposal as a trial for next season - I urge the minister to reconsider. Football fans want a Government which is on their side."

Albion's bid for a safe standing area would have meant 3,600 seats at The Hawthorns were converted to 'rail seats', which can be locked in an upright position. It was rejected by Minister for Sport Tracey Crouch, who said in April that there were no plans to change the all-seater policy at grounds.

Brum third in graduate hotspot list

BIRMINGHAM has placed third in a graduate hotspot list of places to live from property marketplace TheHouseShop.

It was up three places from 2017 in the table based on average house prices, monthly rents, utility costs, disposable income and the price of a pint.

The list identifies the best city location for graduates to start their lives.

Leeds came top with Belfast second.

A graduate living in Birmingham can expect to earn around £25,719 a year - the 11th highest annual graduate salary.

Once rent, basic utilities, travel and other monthly essential bills have been deducted, they can expect to be left with £1,034.50 a month. This makes Birmingham the city offering the seventh highest disposable income.

Birmingham ranked well for almost all of the factors, placing itself in the top 15 positions for most categories.

A graduate can find a two-bed rental property from £817 a month, making it the 11th cheapest city for rental properties.

In Birmingham, a graduate can purchase the second cheapest coffee at £2.46 and the seventh cheapest pint with a price tag of £2.87.

NHS wait figure at 10-year high

THE number of patients waiting longer than the recommended 18 weeks to start planned NHS hospital treatment has reached the highest number in almost a decade by exceeding half a million, official figures show.

NHS England referral to treatment statistics for April show 500,068 patients waited more than 18 weeks to start planned treatment - the highest figure since August 2008 when 520,000 people were waiting 18 weeks or more for planned treatment.

The Royal College of Surgeons said it was unclear how the NHS will catch up with the winter backlog. As only 87.5 per cent of patients were seen within 18 weeks, the Government's 92 per cent target has not been met since February 2016.

Death crash teenager to appeal sentence after being given five years' detention



Kian Buckler

A TEENAGER who killed his 15-year-old friend while 'showing off' on a stolen bike has been told he can appeal to have his sentence cut.

Brett Everitt, 17, of Thompson Road, Oldbury, was sentenced to five years' detention after admitting causing the death of Kian Buckler by dangerous driving. At the sentencing hearing, at Wolverhampton Crown Court on January 15, Judge Amjad Nawaz lifted reporting restrictions to allow naming of the teenager.

The court had heard how Everitt was riding the stolen motorbike in Bilston in November last year. With Mr Buckler as his passenger, CCTV on Boswell Road caught Everitt riding up and down the street, sometimes at speed.

Report by David Banner

A driver did not see the pair because the motorbike did not have its lights on and neither teenager was wearing reflective clothing.

The vehicles crashed at the junction of Lunt Road and Boswell Road and Mr Buckler was thrown off the motorbike. The incident happened in Lunt Road on November 29 at 6.30pm, and Buckler died in hospital three days later.

At London's High Court last week, Mr Justice William Davis said Everitt's sentence was far too tough and he deserved a bigger reduction because of his youth.

Mr Justice Davis, who was sitting with two other judges, said: "We give leave to appeal against the sentence."

A full hearing of Everitt's appeal will take place at a later date, with the victim's family and prosecution lawyers invited to attend.

Following the sentencing of Everitt, Kian's mother, Tina Richards said: "Losing Kian has left a great big hole in my life, which will never be filled."

"I miss his attitude, I miss his smile, I miss his presence. I miss him asking me for a bowl of cereal every night, I miss waking him up for school every day, I miss seeing him play with his little sister."



Brett Everitt

Val returns as lady who sings the blues in her home town



IT will be a true homecoming for jazz legend Val Wiseman when she performs her Lady Sings The Blues tribute to Billie Holiday at Central Library next month

West Bromwich-born Val got her first taste of showbusiness dancing in a talent show at Dartmouth Park aged just four.

At 18, she joined the West Side Jazz Band which had a residency at the old Dartmouth Hotel.



Singer Val Wiseman

Decades later, Val is very much looking forward to her concert on Saturday 21 July as part of the Birmingham, Solihull and Sandwell Jazz Festival.

She will be joined by Digby Fairweather on trumpet, Roy Williams on trombone and bassist Len Skeat. Pianist Brian Dee, saxophonist/clarinetist Alan Barnes and drummer Eric Ford complete an experienced and highly talented line-up.

Val said: "I was born and raised in West Bromwich and I am absolutely thrilled to be invited to perform in my home town where I launched my singing career. Throughout my life I have retained many happy memories of growing up in West Bromwich."

Remembering the Dartmouth Park talent show, Val said: "I was supposed to be reciting a poem, but once on stage I decided to dance instead. I went on to develop an interest in art and jazz, attending classes at Ryland Memorial Art School near the library and joining a jazz appreciation society run by our art teacher at Cronehills Technical School."

Legendary

A year after joining the West Side Jazz Band as singer, Val joined Birmingham's Second City Jazzmen. At 21, she left for London to become vocalist with the legendary Monty Sunshine and his band.

Tickets for Lady Sings The Blues: The Homecoming are now available from Central Library in High Street and on Eventbrite - go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/ladysingstheblues for details.

Sandwell is an official partner in the jazz festival for the second year running, with more than 30 events across the six towns from 20-29 July, most of which are free. International artists from America, Canada, France, Hungary and Spain will be joining a host of homegrown talent.

Sandwell Council culture chief, Councillor Steve Trow, said: "Like last year, we have events in each of Sandwell's six towns"

Website: www.birminghamjazzfestival.co.uk
Twitter: @BirmJazzFest #BSSJazz18
Facebook: 'Birmingham, Solihull and Sandwell Jazz Festival'
Instagram: BirminghamJazzFestival

Town's statue tribute to 'lions' taking shape



The head nearing completion



The work underway on the body

A 10-FOOT bronze statue of a First World War Sikh soldier is planned for Smethwick High Street to commemorate 100 years since the end of the conflict.

Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick has appointed Black Country sculptor Luke Perry to create the 'Lions of the Great War' monument to honour the sacrifices made by South Asian service personnel of all faiths from the Indian subcontinent who fought for Britain in the two world wars and subsequent conflicts.

Millions of men from the Indian subcontinent fought in the two world wars, serving



Sculptor Luke Perry at work on the statue of the soldier which will be erected in Smethwick

in the British Indian Army. The majority of these soldiers never visited the country they were fighting for, yet many sacrificed their lives on the battlefield or afterwards.

The Lions of the Great War statue is set to be sited between High Street and Tollhouse Way, where Sandwell Council plans to work with the gurdwara to create a paved public space with seating and lighting.

Under the plans, the statue will stand on a six-foot granite plinth with inscriptions that name the regiments in which South Asian soldiers served. These will also explain the

importance of the statue for Smethwick's long-established South Asian community. An adjoining green space, which includes a memorial celebrating inventor James Watt, who pioneered steam power in Smethwick, is also set to be refurbished with new landscaping to complement the statue and public space.

Preet Kaur Gill MP, chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs, said: "As a Sandwell councillor, I was honoured to work on this project and want to congratulate the gurdwara and the council for all their hard work."

Jazz festival dates in Sandwell:

Events in Sandwell are as follows (free entry unless stated):
Friday 20 July: 12noon - Sandwell Arts Café, West Bromwich - Arkansas Dave (USA), 7pm Great Barr Library - Chickenbone John
7pm - Lightwoods Park - Budapest Ragtime Orchestra (Hungary), 8pm - Thimblemill Library, Smethwick - Hymn For Her (USA), £9 (£5 concessions)
Saturday 21 July: 2pm - Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery - New Orleans Jump Band (Spain), 7pm - Wednesbury Library - Roy Forbes, 7pm - West Bromwich Central Library

- Lady Sings The Blues: The Homecoming, £9 (£5 concessions), 8pm - The Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood - Ricky Cool & The In Crowd, Sunday 22 July: 2pm - Oak House Museum, West Bromwich - Art Themen Quartet,
Monday 23 July: 7pm - Great Bridge Library - The Whiskey Brothers,
Tuesday 24 July: 7pm - Cradley Heath Library - Justin Randall, 8pm - The Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood - Roy Forbes Trio, 8.30pm - The Perry Hill Tavern, Oldbury - Old Comrades Jazz Band,
Wednesday 25 July: 7.30pm - Thimblemill Li-

brary, Smethwick - Chris Bowden Trio, 8pm - The Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood - The Whiskey Brothers,
Thursday 26 July: 12.30pm - Queens Square Shopping Centre, West Bromwich - The Shuffie Demons (Canada), 7pm - Bleakhouse Library, Oldbury - Blue Silk, 8pm - The Windsor Theatre Bar, Bearwood - Digby Fairweather with Chase Jazzmen
Friday 27 July: 12noon - Sandwell Arts Café, West Bromwich - Les Zauto Stompers de Paris (France), 7pm - West Bromwich Central Library - Ricky Cool & The In Crowd.

Saturday 28 July: 2.30pm - Manor House Museum, West Bromwich - Bruce Adams Quartet, 7pm - Blackheath Library - Grey Goose Blues Band, 8.30pm - Great Barr Conservative Club - Chase Jazzmen, £1,
Sunday 29 July: 2pm - Haden Hill House and Park, Cradley Heath - The Rip Roaring Success.
Central Library in West Bromwich will also be a series of jazz and blues-themed film showings at 3pm on weekdays during the festival and at 1pm on the two Saturdays (21 and 28 July).

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This half would then NOT be included in any future means test calculations for care fees. The surviving spouse is free to sell their share of the home, raise cash or move house. Your children are powerless to intervene but simply have to wait for their inheritance, as they would have done previously.

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Ironmaster statue project funding plea

A MEMORIAL to a founding father of the industrial revolution is one of dozens of Dudley projects applying for grant aid.

Dudley Council's community forums, which meet this week, will decide on an application for more than £8,000 is to help build a monument to iron master Abraham Darby.

He was born in 1678 and founded a family dynasty, which led to his grandson, Abraham Darby III, building the world's first iron bridge over the River Severn in Shropshire in 1779. The request for cash is being made by the Friends of Wren's Nest Nature Reserve to the Castle and Priory, St James's and St Thomas's Community Forum – one of ten forums which awards money to local projects in the borough.

There is also a £4,820 application from the Dudley Deaf Theatre, which supports the hard of hearing to enjoy plays and theatre activities.

Cost of junction revamp to be shared

A MASSIVE 'hamburger-style' traffic system will cost Sandwell Council tax payers less than £3 million after the borough won the backing of major funders.

The huge cost saving will mean that the notorious traffic jam blackspot Birchley Island in Oldbury, which is expected to cost £26m, will only cost local people £2.6m.

It is hoped the new road scheme, next to Junction 2 of the M5, will cut queues and improve traffic flow between Sandwell, Dudley and Birmingham.

A report to Sandwell cabinet members shows that the cost of the hamburger-style layout, where the Wolverhampton Road passes through the current island in both directions, will be shared with Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The Black Country LEP will put in £16m while the Combined Authority pays £7.58m towards the road scheme.

Congested

The scheme is expected to reduce delays and congestion, improve bus services and improve road safety.

Announcing the plan, Councillor Steve Eling, leader of Sandwell Council, said: "This is welcome news because the Birchley Island is a very congested junction which causes long delays

By George Makin

and frustration for thousands of local motorists and drivers passing through.

"The main problem is that the island is used by so many motorists who do not have an alternative route to the motorways or into Oldbury."

He admitted: "It is a junction I avoid at all times.

Councillor Eling added: "The new hamburger system will improve the congestion problems even though it will always be a busy junction and the improvements will have a positive impact on bus services and for local motorists.

"It will also be good news for the many Black Country businesses who use the junction to transport goods through the junction onto the regional and national networks."

The plan to revamp the junction on the main route between Dudley and Birmingham was approved by Sandwell's cabinet last week.

Lots of free events as play week returns

THERE will be free games, sports and craft activities galore for youngsters in Dudley borough this summer.

Events will take place as the popular Dudley Play Week returns. Back for its tenth year, the event organised by Dudley Council will run from July 30 to August 3.

During the week, there will be group games, sports, camp fires, den building, a climbing wall, craft activities, a baby zone, assault courses, skittles, tug of war, bouncy castles and stalls. Most of the activities on offer will be free of charge.

The events will be held on various days at Huntingtree Park, Halesowen; Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley; Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge; Priory Park, Dudley; and the Dell Stadium and Fens Pool, in Pensnett. Activities take place daily between noon and 4pm. Children must be registered on arrival. For more information visit www.sycamoreadventure.co.uk or call (01384) 813755.



In the pink for charity – Hannah Turton and Millie Coldicott ran in memory of Hannah's step-father

Park is turned pink as the Race for Life returns

MORE than 1,000 people flocked to West Park in Wolverhampton to raise £60,000 for Cancer Research UK as a sea of pink washed over the city park as fundraisers took part in the Race For Life event.

Donna Downing, 46, from Wordley, was cheering on her daughter Hannah Turton, 17, and friend Millie Coldicott, 17, who were running in memory of her step-father Wayne Hackeson. Mr Hackeson, otherwise known as 'Acki', died on June 4 after being diagnosed with a form of Sarcoma. Finn Hackeson, 12, Wayne's son, also came to cheer on his step-sister Hannah.

Donna said she was 'immensely

proud' of Hannah, who had managed to raise more than £2,000.

She said: "I'm so immensely proud. Hopefully we can raise all this money for awareness into the rare cancers that are still taking and destroying people's lives. It just goes to show this awful disease affects absolutely everybody and we keep doing the research. We have got to get as much information and save as many people as possible."

Race for Life will also take place at Himley Hall on July 8 and a Pretty Muddy event will be held at Sandwell Valley Country Park on September 29. To enter visit www.raceforlife.org or call 0300 123 0770.

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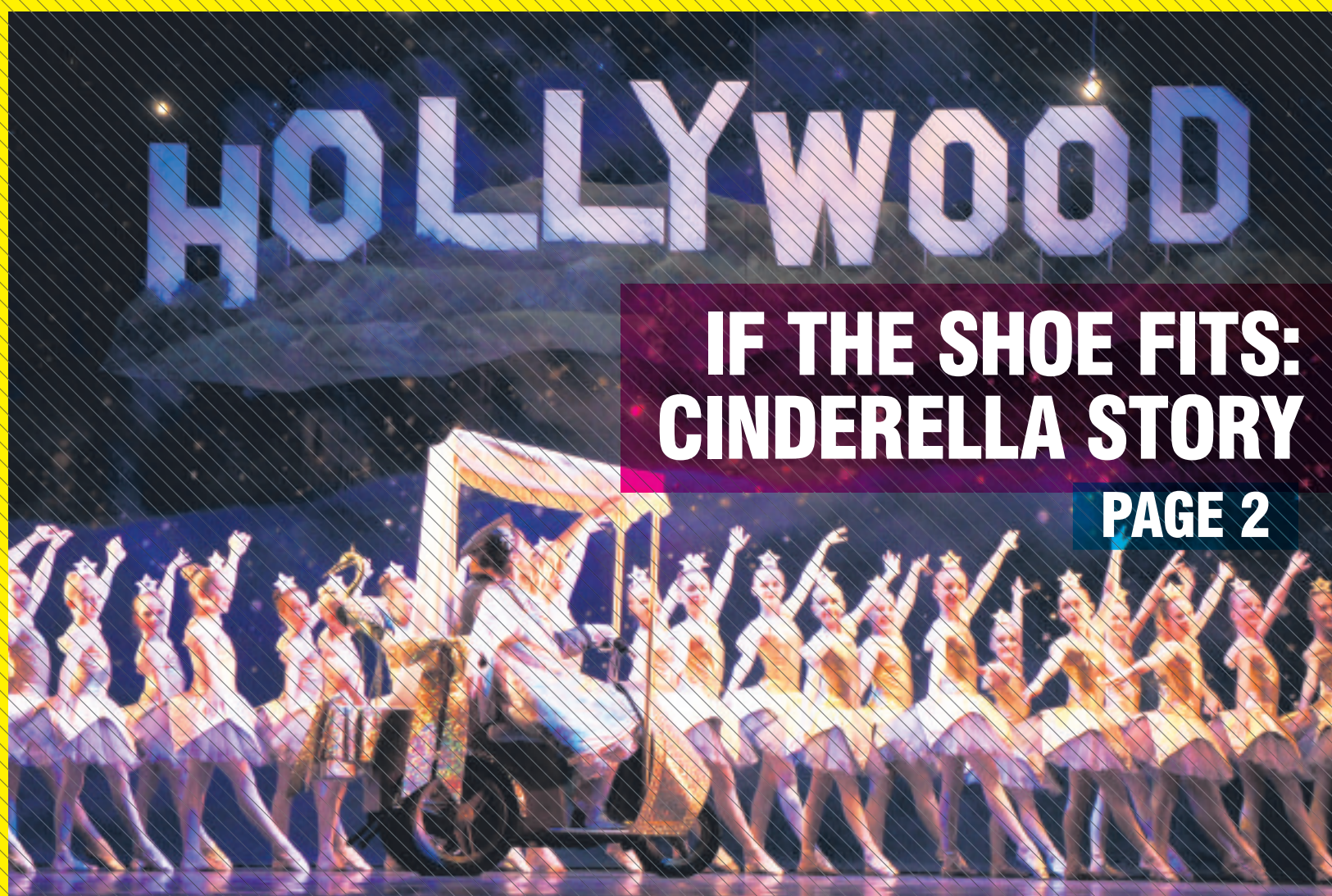
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This project is receiving up to £34 million of funding made up of £17 million European Social Fund and £17 million Youth Employment Initiative, plus match funding of up to £8m from the Big Lottery Fund and funding from partners.



IF THE SHOE FITS: CINDERELLA STORY

PAGE 2

Offering a warm welcome



Managers Paul and Carol always ensure a warm welcome to customers both old and new at Blackheath's Shoulder of Mutton pub.

For all the sports fans they boast three large TV screens featuring all sports on Sky, BT and all BOX OFFICE Events not to mention AT THE RACES.

For those who like 'doing' rather than 'watching', there is the availability of the pool table and dart board.

Loyalty

The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including four 'Real Ales' which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoes Entire, plus many more!

The pub also run a loyalty scheme which means customers can get 10p back on their card for every pound they spend.

A pub spokesman added: "With a juke box and free WIFI to compliment the regular entertainment every Friday, customers cannot ask for much more from a local pub!"

Lots of Exciting upcoming entertainment, look out for their adverts or check out their Facebook page.

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Dancer Monica will pirouette to the ball

Spanish dancer Monica Tapiador will be starring in English Youth Ballet's new production of Cinderella in Hollywood in Shrewsbury tomorrow and Saturday. She will be leading an impressive cast of international principal dancers and 83 of the region's finest young dancers at Theatre Severn.

Monica was born in Spain and before joining EYB she danced with La Scala Theatre Ballet and English National Ballet.

Set in the glamorous era of 1950s Hollywood movies, the lavish production draws its inspiration from the film star Grace Kelly who met Prince Rainier of Monaco at a press party and later married him.

Cinderella is a seamstress on a film set and the Fairy Godmother is her late mother – a former movie star of the 1930s. Her wicked sisters are Hollywood starlets competing with each other for starring film roles. The Prince meets Cinderella at the press party but at midnight she flees from the scene leaving a sparkly silver pointe-shoe as the only clue to her identity.

The choreography has been created by Director Janet Lewis and her team of international principal artists, who coach the young dancers.

The music combines Shostakovich Jazz Suites and Ballet Suites with memorable melodies from Hollywood films such as Tea for Two, Chinatown and Dancing in the Dark. The stunning new stage designs for the ballet are by Sebastian Petit and the costume designs are by Keith Bish.

We caught up with Monica to find out more about the show and what makes her tick:

HOW DOES THE ROLE OF CINDERELLA THAT YOU WILL BE DANCING DIFFER FROM THE FAIRYTALE?

My Cinderella is very different to the Disney movie. She works in the wardrobe department of a Hollywood film studio in the 1950s. She lost her mother when she was younger so she had to grow up very fast. Her step-sisters aren't ugly – they are wicked Hollywood starlets. Cinderella dreams of becoming a movie star – just like her mother.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES OF THE ROLE FOR YOU?

It's important not to get into the cliché of playing the artificial or fairytale role. I want my Cinderella to be a real girl that the audience can identify with. Also, the style of the choreography is neo-classical (quite modern ballet) and my body is having to find new and different ways of moving that I'm not used to.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT THE AUDIENCES WILL ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE NEW PRODUCTION?

The audience will love the selection of music in the ballet. We have beautiful orchestral jazz and classical music that the audience are familiar with. It really helps to create the Hollywood atmosphere. There are also many styles of dance – from glamorous show dancing to classical waltzes. I think that Cinderella's motorised buggy that takes her to the press party will be a hit. It is so Hollywood!

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST ABOUT COACHING THE SHROPSHIRE YOUNG DANCERS IN THE CAST?

I have liked seeing the transition they have made since day one of rehearsals. At the beginning, they

Crystal clear – Monica Tapiador brings Hollywood glamour to the fairy tale



were quite unsure and nervous and they have become so much more confident and disciplined as rehearsals have progressed. They are learning how to work as a team and really push themselves.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE ANY YOUNG DANCER CONSIDERING A CAREER IN DANCE?

If you can learn to believe in what you do then the audience will also believe in you. I think they should keep their passion even through the difficult times. Keep an eye on the goal that is driving you – even on the days when you don't feel that motivated. It is such an amazing feeling to work in a job you love.

● Cinderella in Hollywood will be presented tomorrow and Saturday at Theatre Severn. For tickets contact the box office on 01743 281281 or visit www.theatresevern.co.uk

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

I want my Cinderella to be a real girl that the audience can identify with

BRB's Romeo and Juliet



Passion and tragedy

THE timeless drama and storytelling of Shakespeare's plays have inspired generations of theatre-goers and artists across the globe for hundreds of years.

This summer Birmingham Royal Ballet presents an spectacular adaptation of his tale of star-crossed lovers, Kenneth MacMillan's Romeo and Juliet. Céline Gittens as Juliet and Brandon Lawrence as Romeo are pictured above.

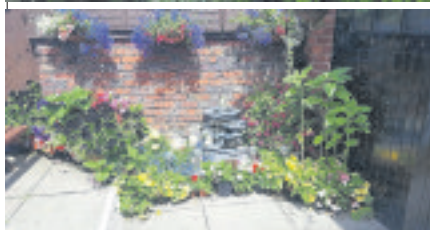
William Shakespeare's tragic and passionate narrative comes to life in this epic production, featuring stunning design by Paul Andrews which recreates the grandeur of Verona. A cast of more than 50 dancers execute Macmillan's acclaimed choreography, from the balcony scene's romantic pas de deux to large-

scale sword fight scenes and the heart-breaking climax. The spectacle is accompanied by Prokofiev's instantly recognisable score, played live at every performance by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

David Bintley, director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, said: "Romeo and Juliet is the most important full-length ballet of the 20th century. It broke the mould of classical ballets because everything within the ballet supports the narrative. The stand-out elements are the pas de deux, particularly the balcony scene. As a narrative piece of dance making, I would say this is probably the greatest one ever made."

It is staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from June 26 to 30. Tickets from birminghamhippodrome.com or by calling 0844 338 5000.

COMMERCIAL FEATURE



WHY NOT SEE FOR YOURSELF!!

Situated in a little charming cul de sac on Why Not Street just off Toys Lane in Halesowen you will find the best well kept secret THE WHY NOT INN. The pub is over 100 years old and even though it's been refurbished it's still managed to keep much of its original character.

The Why Not Inn originally got its name from a racehorse who won the grand national in 1889 and 1894.

As you walk through the doorway on entry you can't but help notice the charm and character of this pub even with the fixtures and fittings it's like the pub is still living in the 1800's but if it was built yesterday as the Pub has been well looked after and maintained over the years.

Owner Dave Cooper is very proud

of the pub and its very own menu offering good home cooked hearty meals at reasonable prices but you will not leave feeling hungry!! The Why Not offer a Sunday Carvery where the choice is yours starting with a delicious soup of the day, a main offering a choice of meats, Lamb Shanks and a good choice of vegetables and then finishing off with a homemade pudding!!

Proud

Dave is very proud of the awards this public house keeps on winning, having won best kept cellar and was the first Pub to win Halesowen in Bloom. At the side of the pub you will find the best well kept beer garden with some of the most unique flowers you will ever see, making that beer

in the garden more enjoyable and refreshing. Not only is it winning awards it's also receiving rave reviews from the customers has it has been rewarded with a certificate of excellence on Trip Advisor making it the number one place to visit in Halesowen.

If you are looking to hold a party then look no further than the Why Not Inn, who will cater for your every need's and will provide you with a first class sit down meal.

One thing for certain is this is a proper traditional pub serving the finest Ales and lagers with a warm welcoming atmosphere. You will not leave feeling disappointed!

Why Not Street,
Halesowen B63 2JH
01384 561019

Jobson heads Into The Valley again



ENDURING punk rockers Skids will be celebrating more than 40 years with a headline show at Bilston's Robin 2 next week.

Skids were formed in 1977 in their home town of Dunfermline, Scotland, by Richard Jobson (pictured), Stuart Adamson, Bill Simpson and Tom Kellichan. After releasing an independent single the band were championed by influential Radio 1 DJ John Peel, supported The Clash and then were signed to Virgin Records in 1978.

Their first singles were Sweet Surburbia, The Saints are Coming

and Into the Valley. The latter reached the UK top ten becoming the band's enduring anthem.

Their debut album Scared to Dance came out in 1979 and was followed by two chart singles Masquerade and Working for the Yankee Dollar, both from second album Days in Europa. That album also featured Rusty Egan of Visage after the departure of Kellichan. The band released two more albums before splitting in 1982. Adamson went on to have worldwide success with his new band Big Country but took his own life in Hawaii in 2001.

The band briefly resumed a decade ago and now the 40th

anniversary tour, at the Robin on June 28, features Jobson and Simpson with Mike Baillie, Bruce Watson and Jamie Watson.

Jobson said: "The Skids were not just another punk band. We were creatively ambitious. Most importantly we loved playing live. As I tried to find a way to celebrate the band's 40th anniversary, the answers ended up being very simple - just do it. Play the songs like it might be the last time. Give it everything. Then there's the new stuff. It's the beginning of something new rather than the end of something old."

Metal memories as fans ask Tony

Legendary Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi is returning to Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday to talk about his life and career. Black Sabbath have sold in excess of 100 million albums and Birmingham born and raised Tony is synonymous with heavy rock and his innovative riffs are acknowledged to be the beginning of what became heavy metal. Tony will be answering questions and fans can send them by tweeting #askiommi2018 or emailing marketing@thsh.co.uk.



Lakeside Proms for rock and movie magic

Music will drift across the lake at the NEC this summer as two big nights of entertainment take place across the first weekend in August. Lakeside Proms is the setting for an outdoor summer's evening with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. August 4 will see a night of symphonic rock, while the following evening goes Hollywood with the movie music of John Williams.

The first evening will feature a spectacular light show to accompany the iconic music of Queen, David Bowie, The Rolling Stones, Michael Jackson and many more, followed by a firework display. On August 5 the orchestra celebrates film composer Williams with such blockbuster themes as those from the Harry Potter and Indiana Jones movies, ET, Star Wars and Jurassic Park. Tickets available on 0844 338 8000.

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CHOICE



Chelsea Halfpenny

Casualty (BBC1, 8.20pm)
Struggling to keep a lid on her emotions following her night with Eddie, Alicia pushes Ethan away. She then has to deal with Leigh-Anne, who arrives in the ED with her son Kiegan, but a shocking confession from Ethan leaves her feeling even more alone. Connie returns and immediately notices that someone has killed her goldfish and replaced it. With Elle's encouragement, Connie has some fun waiting for the culprits to reveal themselves and puts the pressure on. Elsewhere, Robyn asks for more overtime due to her parking fines.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.15** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Belgium v Tunisia (Kick-off 1.00pm). **3.30** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.05** Film: Muppets Most Wanted. (2014) Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais. **6.45** **Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death.** The duo open their own bakery and business is soon booming – not least because their potential rivals have all been killed by a mysterious assassin. (R) **7.15** **BBC News.** **7.25** **Regional Programme.** **7.30** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alastair Stewart, Charlene White, Emily Maitlis, Nick Robinson, Piers Morgan, Susanna Reid, Rageh Omaar and Cathy Newman compete in a news-themed edition of the quiz. (R) **8.20** **Casualty.** Struggling to keep a lid on her emotions following her night with Eddie, Alicia pushes Ethan away. She then has to deal with Leigh-Anne, who arrives in the ED with her son Kiegan. **9.10** **All Round to Mrs Brown's.** Mrs Brown's Boys creator, writer and star Brendan O'Carroll dons Agnes's famous cardigan and curlers once again, throwing open the doors of the larger-than-life Irish matriarch's home to host the Saturday night chat show, filmed in front of a live studio audience. Joining in the fun this time around are guests Jerry Springer, Ray Mears and Boy George, who has brought along his mother, Dinah O'Dowd. Ray gives Dermot and Buster a crash course in survival skills, while Years & Years perform at Foley's. Last in the series. **10.10** **BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.30** **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.** Jason Mohammad presents action from the day's fixtures – Germany v Sweden in Sochi, South Korea v Mexico in Rostov-on-Don and Belgium v Tunisia in Moscow. **11.20** **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.** Germany v Sweden. A chance to see the second Group F encounter for both sides. Commentary by Jonathan Pearce. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengies. **8.00** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **8.30** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **9.00** Natural Born Winners. (R) **10.00** **Film:** Earth: One Amazing Day. (2017) **11.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **1.00** Tennis: Queen's. The Fever-Tree Championships. **5.00** Choose the Right Puppy for You. (R) **6.00** **Coastal Path.** Paul Rose sets off on the walk of a lifetime as he covers 630 miles of the South West Coast Path, discovering wildlife, traditions and adventure along the way. (R) **6.30** **Great Exhibition of the North.** Coverage of the festival, which takes place in Newcastle and Gateshead. **7.00** **The River Wye with Will Millard.** The writer and angler sets out on the final leg of his journey down the Wye, with the river flowing through an area of outstanding natural beauty as it meanders towards the sea. Last in the series. **7.30** **Dad's Army.** Godfrey learns his cottage is scheduled for demolition to make way for a new airstrip. Comedy, starring Arnold Ridley. (R) **8.00** **The Super Squirrels.** The extraordinary abilities of the squirrel family are examined, putting their problem-solving to the test on a specially designed assault course. (R) **9.00** **Live International Rugby League.** New Zealand v England (Kick-off 9.10pm). Coverage of the match, which takes place at Sports Authority Field at Mile High in Denver, Colorado. This match will be England's first game on US soil since October 2000, when they took on the USA in Orlando, Florida. The Kiwis will be looking to bounce back from a disappointing World Cup last year when, despite being finalists in the three previous editions, they were eliminated in the quarter-finals. England will be hoping to continue their recent encouraging form, having reached the World Cup final in 2017, eventually losing 6-0 to Australia. **11.30** **Film: Little Voice.** (1998) **1.00** **Film:** Waleesa: Man of Hope. (2013) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Emplayable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninja: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** Midsomer Murders. (R) **11.20** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **1.30** ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot. Coverage of day five, including first two races of the day at 2.30 and 3.05. **3.25** FIFA World Cup 2018. South Korea v Mexico (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.15** **ITV News:** Weather. **6.20** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.30** **FIFA World Cup 2018.** Germany v Sweden (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the second Group F encounter from both sides, which comes from Fisht Stadium in Sochi, Russia. This is the first meeting between these countries at the World Cup finals since their last-16 fixture in Munich during the 2006 tournament. The host nation secured a comfortable 2-0 victory, with both goals coming from striker Lukas Podolski. That match would prove to be Sweden's last at the World Cup until their opening group fixture with South Korea last Monday, while Jurgen Klinsmann's side – with current boss Joachim Loew serving as assistant manager – would go out at the semi-final stage to eventual winners Italy. With commentary by Sam Matherface and Lee Dixon, and analysis by Gary Neville, Roy Keane, Patrice Evra and Henrik Larsson. **9.15** **ITV News:** Weather. **9.30** **Film: Creed.** (2015) Premiere. The son of a heavyweight boxer who died in the ring seeks to follow in the footsteps of the father he never knew. He goes in search of his father's old rival-turned-best friend Rocky Balboa, who agrees to train the young fighter for a shot at the title – but the ageing champ is facing challenges of his own. Boxing drama, starring Michael B Jordan, with Sylvester Stallone reprising his role from the Rocky movies. **12.05** Play to the Whistle. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The King of Queens. (R) **6.25** The King of Queens. (R) **6.50** The King of Queens. (R) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Simpsons. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.25** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.55** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **6.00** **Channel 4 News.** **6.30** **Formula 1 French Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.** Steve Jones presents action from the battle for pole position ahead of the eighth round of the season at Circuit Paul Ricard, as the race returned to the calendar after 10 years. **8.10** **Live International Rugby Union.** Argentina v Scotland (Kick-off 8.40pm). Coverage of the Test match, which takes place at the Estadio Centenario in Resistencia. In 2017/18, Gregor Townsend's team have beaten Australia, England and France, so will be looking to wrap up a fine season with their fourth straight win against the Pumas, having also visited Canada and the USA in the last two weeks. Presented by Lee McKenzie, with analysis from John Barclay and Ugo Moryne, and commentary by Eddie Butler and Rory Lawson. **11.00** **Film: Dumb and Dumber To.** (2014) The dim-witted friends are reunited after 20 years, and set off on a road trip to find Harry's estranged daughter. Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey. **1.05** Ramsay's Hotel Hell. Gordon Ramsay visits a Tuscan-style hotel in New Mexico. (R) **1.55** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Luke is back on the wagon, leaving Ollie to rebel against the rules, while Sienna is planning to move, but Nico has another idea in mind. (R) **4.05** My Kitchen Rules. The two strongest teams in Group B compete in the second Italian-themed semi-final, with dishes including fig-stuffed pork and sour sauce, duck ragu with pappardelle pasta. (R) **5.00** Wedding Town. Leading hotelier Alasdair Houston plans to build a love wall in Gretna Green. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Access. **10.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.35** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **1.35** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **2.35** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **3.35** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **4.35** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **5.30** 5 News Weekend. **5.35** Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers. **6.30** **The Wonderful World of Puppies.** A showdog gives birth to four puppies, and the owners assess their potential for following in their mother's footsteps. The two smallest members of a litter of Mexican hairless hounds struggle to cope with being cooped up in their Peterborough home, a cockapoo tries to befriend a new housemate, and a rescue collie has a first encounter with sheep. **7.30** **Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady hosts a special episode in which a mother and her son both go looking for love. Emile has to choose between a model, a restaurant host and a Cambridge woman who does not like Mummy's boys, before his mother Belinda sizes up an HGV driver, a former holiday rep, and a third candidate from Northern Ireland. Plus, a chance to catch up with last week's winners, which this week features a shocking revelation. **8.30** **Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde.** (2003) The dizzy blonde heroine graduates as a qualified lawyer and heads straight for Washington, DC determined to persuade Congress to put a stop to the testing of cosmetics on animals – and swiftly proves her mettle in fighting adversity as well as red tape. Comedy sequel, starring Reese Witherspoon, Sally Field, Bob Newhart, Bruce McGill and Regina King. **9.30** **5 News Update.** **9.35** **Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde.** (2003) Concluded. **10.20** **Live Boxing.** Josh Taylor v Viktor Postol. Coverage of the bout for the WBC Silver Super Lightweight title, which takes place at the SSE Hydro in Glasgow. **12.00** Cricket on 5. **1.00** SuperCupino. **3.10** Wentworth Prison. (R) **4.00** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise
8.00 Simon King's Shetland Adventure
9.00 Hidden **10.00** The League of Gentlemen **11.00** Frank Skinner on George Formby **12.00** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **1.00** Unsung Heroines: Danielle de Niese on the Lost World of Female Composers **2.00** Timeshift: The Smoking Years **3.00** Simon King's Shetland Adventure **4.00** Close
ITV2
11.45 Catchphrase **12.30** **Film:** Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** **Film:** Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **2.55** **Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** **Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.00** **Film:** Casper (1995) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** **Film:** Casper (1995) **6.55** **Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** **Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.15** **Film:** Sex and the City 2 (2010) **1.25** FYI Daily **1.30** **Film:** Sex and the City 2 (2010) **3.00** Teleshopping
ITV3
2.50 Midsomer Murders **4.50** **Film:** Mamma Mia! (2008) **7.00** Mairget **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** Honest **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
3.20 ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot. Further coverage of day five of the prestigious festival. **6.00** The Chase Celebrity Special **7.00** **Film:** The War Wagon (1967) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** **Film:** The War Wagon (1967) **9.10** **Film:** Windtalkers (2002) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** **Film:** Windtalkers (2002) **11.50** **Film:** Scarface (1983) **12.10** FYI Daily **1.15** **Film:** Scarface (1983) **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** Young Sheldon **2.00** **Film:** Cheaper By the Dozen (2003) **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Now You See Me (2013) **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** Tattoo Fixers **2.30** Rude Tube **3.25** Gogglebox **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube **4.40** How I Met Your Mother
Film4
11.00 Crack in the World (1965) **1.00** Romancing the Stone (1984) **3.10** Shark Tale (2004) **4.55** Rio 2 (2014) **6.55** Fantastic Four (2005) **9.00** Lucy (2014) **10.45** Assault on Precinct 13 (1976) **12.30** Carnage Park (2016) **2.10** Excision (2012) **3.50** Close

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CHANNEL 4

6.00 The King of Queens. (R) **6.25** The King of Queens. (R) **6.50** The King of Queens. (R) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Simpsons. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.25** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.55** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **6.00** **Channel 4 News.** **6.30** **Formula 1 French Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.** Steve Jones presents action from the battle for pole position ahead of the eighth round of the season at Circuit Paul Ricard, as the race returned to the calendar after 10 years. **8.10** **Live International Rugby Union.** Argentina v Scotland (Kick-off 8.40pm). Coverage of the Test match, which takes place at the Estadio Centenario in Resistencia. In 2017/18, Gregor Townsend's team have beaten Australia, England and France, so will be looking to wrap up a fine season with their fourth straight win against the Pumas, having also visited Canada and the USA in the last two weeks. Presented by Lee McKenzie, with analysis from John Barclay and Ugo Moryne, and commentary by Eddie Butler and Rory Lawson. **11.00** **Film: Dumb and Dumber To.** (2014) The dim-witted friends are reunited after 20 years, and set off on a road trip to find Harry's estranged daughter. Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey. **1.05** Ramsay's Hotel Hell. Gordon Ramsay visits a Tuscan-style hotel in New Mexico. (R) **1.55** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Luke is back on the wagon, leaving Ollie to rebel against the rules, while Sienna is planning to move, but Nico has another idea in mind. (R) **4.05** My Kitchen Rules. The two strongest teams in Group B compete in the second Italian-themed semi-final, with dishes including fig-stuffed pork and sour sauce, duck ragu with pappardelle pasta. (R) **5.00** Wedding Town. Leading hotelier Alasdair Houston plans to build a love wall in Gretna Green. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Access. **10.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.35** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **1.35** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **2.35** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **3.35** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **4.35** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **5.30** 5 News Weekend. **5.35** Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers. **6.30** **The Wonderful World of Puppies.** A showdog gives birth to four puppies, and the owners assess their potential for following in their mother's footsteps. The two smallest members of a litter of Mexican hairless hounds struggle to cope with being cooped up in their Peterborough home, a cockapoo tries to befriend a new housemate, and a rescue collie has a first encounter with sheep. **7.30** **Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady hosts a special episode in which a mother and her son both go looking for love. Emile has to choose between a model, a restaurant host and a Cambridge woman who does not like Mummy's boys, before his mother Belinda sizes up an HGV driver, a former holiday rep, and a third candidate from Northern Ireland. Plus, a chance to catch up with last week's winners, which this week features a shocking revelation. **8.30** **Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde.** (2003) The dizzy blonde heroine graduates as a qualified lawyer and heads straight for Washington, DC determined to persuade Congress to put a stop to the testing of cosmetics on animals – and swiftly proves her mettle in fighting adversity as well as red tape. Comedy sequel, starring Reese Witherspoon, Sally Field, Bob Newhart, Bruce McGill and Regina King. **9.30** **5 News Update.** **9.35** **Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde.** (2003) Concluded. **10.20** **Live Boxing.** Josh Taylor v Viktor Postol. Coverage of the bout for the WBC Silver Super Lightweight title, which takes place at the SSE Hydro in Glasgow. **12.00** Cricket on 5. **1.00** SuperCupino. **3.10** Wentworth Prison. (R) **4.00** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise
8.00 Simon King's Shetland Adventure
9.00 Hidden **10.00** The League of Gentlemen **11.00** Frank Skinner on George Formby **12.00** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **1.00** Unsung Heroines: Danielle de Niese on the Lost World of Female Composers **2.00** Timeshift: The Smoking Years **3.00** Simon King's Shetland Adventure **4.00** Close
ITV2
11.45 Catchphrase **12.30** **Film:** Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** **Film:** Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **2.55** **Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** **Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.00** **Film:** Casper (1995) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** **Film:** Casper (1995) **6.55** **Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** **Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.15** **Film:** Sex and the City 2 (2010) **1.25** FYI Daily **1.30** **Film:** Sex and the City 2 (2010) **3.00** Teleshopping
ITV3
2.50 Midsomer Murders **4.50** **Film:** Mamma Mia! (2008) **7.00** Mairget **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** Honest **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
3.20 ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot. Further coverage of day five of the prestigious festival. **6.00** The Chase Celebrity Special **7.00** **Film:** The War Wagon (1967) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** **Film:** The War Wagon (1967) **9.10** **Film:** Windtalkers (2002) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** **Film:** Windtalkers (2002) **11.50** **Film:** Scarface (1983) **12.10** FYI Daily **1.15** **Film:** Scarface (1983) **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** Young Sheldon **2.00** **Film:** Cheaper By the Dozen (2003) **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Now You See Me (2013) **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** Tattoo Fixers **2.30** Rude Tube **3.25** Gogglebox **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube **4.40** How I Met Your Mother
Film4
11.00 Crack in the World (1965) **1.00** Romancing the Stone (1984) **3.10** Shark Tale (2004) **4.55** Rio 2 (2014) **6.55** Fantastic Four (2005) **9.00** Lucy (2014) **10.45** Assault on Precinct 13 (1976) **12.30** Carnage Park (2016) **2.10** Excision (2012) **3.50** Close

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CHOICE



Gareth Southgate

MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (BBC1, 12.10pm)
England v Panama (Kick-off 1.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of both sides' second Group G match, taking place at Nizhny Novgorod Stadium in Russia. Gareth Southgate's men will be looking to make it out of the group stages of the World Cup for the first time since 2010 after their poor performance at the tournament four years ago. The Three Lions drew one and lost two fixtures in 2014, failing to win a game in a group that also featured Italy, Uruguay and Costa Rica. Recently announced captain Harry Kane will lead his side out in his first-ever World Cup and will be expected to provide the goals that England have desperately needed in the group stages in the past.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. England v Panama (Kick-off 1.00pm). **3.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Japan v Senegal (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.10** **A Question of Sports.** Sue Barker asks the questions in the light-hearted quiz, with celebrity guests joining team captains Matt Dawson and Phil Tufnell. (R) **6.40** **BBC News.** **6.50** **Regional Programme.** **7.00** **Countryfile.** Matt Baker, Ellie Harrison and Steve Brown present from West Sussex, where they meet people who pay to spend their holidays staying in a church. Plus, a plan to reduce food waste and a report on the importance of beetles in pollinating plants. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, where items brought to be valued include a trunk that has travelled the world, a Japanese jar found in a water tank, a chair with a moving story, a Russian brooch that requires a secret code to be unlocked, and a locket that proves that not everyone has heard of the Beatles. **9.00** **Poldark.** Ross makes his maiden speech in Parliament, and is reunited with an older Geoffrey Charles. While her husband is in London, Demelza has to deal with the fall-out from a failing mine and a broken-hearted Drake. Dwight and Caroline have a daughter, but their happiness is short-lived after a shocking diagnosis. Ossie is told a terrible secret by a dying parishioner, and hopes to trade the information to George, who is seeking a way to reclaim his lost political power by buying land he can corruptly control. Rebecca Front (The Thick of It) guest stars. **10.00** **BBC News.** **10.20** **Regional Programme.** **10.30** **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.** Action from the day's group fixtures. **11.20** **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.** England v Panama. Another chance to see both sides' second Group G match. **1.00** **Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.05** **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.15 **Coast. 6.45** **Glorious Gardens** from Above. (R) **7.30** **Gardeners' World.** (R) **8.30** **Countryfile.** (R) **9.25** **The Beechgrove Garden. 10.00** **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30** **Spring Kitchen** with Tom Kerridge. (R) **12.15** **Best Bakes Ever.** (R) **12.40** **Hairy Bikers' Best of British.** (R) **1.40** **Points of View. 1.55** **Songs of Praise. 2.30** **Tennis: Queen's.** The Fever-Tree Championships singles final. **5.30** **Million Pound Menu.** (R) **6.30** **Dragons' Den.** Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Tej Lalvani and Jenny Campbell assess the profit-making potential of a final batch of business plans, including an idea for a child's toothbrush that doubles as a mobile game controller, a range of Scottish gins, and a device for relieving back pain. Last in the series. (R) **7.30** **Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing.** Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer embark on an angling trip round the UK. The first stop is Norfolk, where they fish for tench and reminisce about their childhood. (R) **8.00** **Expedition Volcano.** Part two of two. The team takes a helicopter to the crater of an active volcano that has rarely been studied. The mountain is surrounded by forests, which provide cover for armed militant groups, and the scientists will only have a few short hours to gather information. They then move on to the surrounding area, a dangerous landscape marked by craters from past eruptions. (R) **9.00** **Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate.** New series. Documentary following the staff of the New York Times and exploring the critical issues facing journalism in the wake of Donald Trump's presidency. The first episode examines the first three months of Trump's time in office, as the possibility of Russian interference in the election emerges and the media is condemned as an enemy of the people by the new president. **10.15** **Live at the Apollo.** Dane Baptiste presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo. (R) **11.00** **Film: Oasis: Supersonic.** (2016) Documentary about the early years of the Manchester band. **1.00** **Sign Zone: Question Time.** (R) **2.00** **Holby City.** (R) **3.00** **This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV: Sooty. 6.10** **Grizzly Tales** for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** **Grizzly Tales** for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** **Dino Dana.** (R) **6.50** **Mission Employable.** (R) **6.55** **The Oddbods Show.** (R) **7.05** **Ninjabo: Tournament of Elements.** (R) **7.30** **The Haunted Hathaways.** (R) **7.55** **Drop Dead Weird.** **8.25** **ITV News: 8.30** **Zoe Ball** on Sunday. **9.25** **Countrywise.** (R) **9.55** **Midsomer Murders.** (R) **11.50** **The Best of the Voice Worldwide. 12.50** **ITV News: Weather. 12.55** **Film: St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold.** (2009) Comedy sequel, starring Rupert Everett. **3.00** **Celebrity Catchphrase.** (R) **4.00** **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** (R) **5.00** **The Chase.** (R) **6.00** **ITV News: Weather.** **6.05** **Regional Programme: Weather.** **6.15** **FIFA World Cup 2018.** Poland v Colombia (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch introduces coverage of both teams' second match in Group H, which comes from Kazan Arena in Russia. The sides have not met since a friendly in 2006, when Colombia claimed a 2-1 away win. Given the South Americans' greater recent World Cup experience, they will be hopeful of another victory this evening. However, the Poles have a team that cannot be taken lightly and were in impressive form in qualifying, comfortably topping a group containing the likes of Denmark, Romania and Montenegro. In contrast, Colombia's qualification campaign went right to the wire, with a 1-1 draw in their final match away to Peru, and Chile's 3-0 defeat in Brazil, allowing them to finish one point clear of the Peruvians and Chileans in the final automatic position. With commentary by Jon Champion and Ally McCoist, and analysis by Gary Neville, Roy Keane and Ian Wright. **9.15** **Celebrity Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the second of two special World Cup editions, with contestants Shayne Ward, Paul Merson and Eni Aluko trying to guess familiar phrases. **10.15** **ITV News: Weather.** **10.30** **Flights from Hell: Caught on Camera.** Three-part series featuring clips of things that can go wrong at 30,000 feet. (R) **11.25** **The Big Fish Off.** (R) **12.15** **Jackpot247. 3.00** **Motorsport UK.** (R) **3.50** **British Superbike Championship Highlights.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 **Motor Sport: Caterham. 6.40** **Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. 7.05** **Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. 8.00** **Fraser.** (R) **8.30** **Fraser.** (R) **9.00** **Sunday Brunch. 12.00** **Bake Off: The Professionals.** (R) **1.00** **Film: The Core.** (2003) Sci-fi thriller, starring Aaron Eckhart. **3.35** **Film: Dante's Peak.** (1997) Disaster movie, starring Pierce Brosnan. **5.40** **Bang on Budget.** **6.35** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Escape to the Chateau.** Dick celebrates his birthday with a hot air balloon ride over the chateau at sunrise, before setting to work in the kitchen making his own jam and alcohol from the vast quantities of fresh fruit waiting to be harvested in the garden. Angel starts work on a new project of her own - building a geodesic dome on top of a floating platform. (R) **8.00** **Bake Off: The Professionals.** Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the quarter final, in which the five remaining teams must impress judges Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin in two challenges on the theme of childhood. The first task is to create a tiered macaron cake and two types of lollipops, before the bakers move on to create a fairytale showpiece combining sugar and chocolate. **9.00** **The Handmaid's Tale.** Offred finds unexpected allies and obstacles in her search for a way to protect Hannah. The Commander prepares for the dedication of a new Red Centre, and Nick struggles with his new assignment. **10.15** **Formula 1 French Grand Prix Highlights.** Steve Jones is joined by David Coulthard to present action from the eighth round of the season at Circuit Paul Ricard, as the race returned to the calendar after 10 years. Mercedes and Red Bull will have been keen to bounce back here after Sebastian Vettel had a dominant weekend in Canada last time out. **12.10** **Gogglebox: The Best Bits.** Memorable critiques delivered by the armchair critics. (R) **1.05** **The Last Leg.** A comic review of the past seven days. (R) **2.00** **The Secret Life of the Zoo.** Black rhino Kitani is due to give birth at Chester Zoo. (R) **2.55** **Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb.** Three rival sellers in Bournemouth try and clinch a sale from buyer Steve. (R) **3.50** **My Kitchen Rules.** The grand final. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!: Little Princess. 6.10** **Wissper.** (R) **6.20** **Puppy Cat.** (R) **6.30** **Milkshake! Monkey.** (R) **6.35** **The Secret Life of Puppies.** (R) **6.40** **Mofy.** (R) **6.45** **Simon.** (R) **6.50** **Peppa Pig.** (R) **7.00** **Paw Patrol.** (R) **7.15** **Thomas & Friends.** (R) **7.30** **Fireman Sam.** (R) **7.45** **Rusty Rivets.** (R) **8.00** **Paw Patrol.** (R) **8.15** **Nella the Princess Knight.** (R) **8.35** **Noddy: Toyland Detective.** (R) **8.50** **Floogals.** (R) **9.00** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.15** **Shimmer and Shine.** (R) **9.35** **Digby Dragon.** (R) **9.50** **Peppa Pig.** (R) **10.00** **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.30** **Access.** **10.35** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **11.25** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.15** **Inside Kensington Palace.** (R) **1.20** **Film: The Ghost of Greville Lodge.** (2000) Supernatural family drama, starring George Cole. **3.05** **Film: Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War.** (2002) Comedy drama, starring Pauline Collins. **4.05** **5 News Update. 4.10** **Film: Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War.** (2002) Concluded. **5.20** **Film: Serendipity.** (2001) **6.20** **5 News Update.** **6.25** **Film: Serendipity.** (2001) Concluded. **7.00** **Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Highlights of the fifth and final one-day international in the five-match series, which took place at Old Trafford. **8.00** **41 Dogs in a 3-Bed Semi.** Cameras reveal the nation's most extreme animal lovers and witness what can happen when their obsessions get out of hand, featuring a couple who live with 41 dogs. (R) **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Film: Blackhat.** (2015) Premiere. A computer hacker is enlisted by the FBI to help find the terrorist who is using his hi-tech code to commit cyber crimes. Crime drama, starring Chris Hemsworth. **10.00** **5 News Update.** **10.05** **Film: Blackhat.** (2015) Concluded. **11.25** **Film: Hummingbird.** (2013) A former soldier is drawn into the London underworld, and plots revenge against the gangster who killed his girlfriend. Crime thriller, starring Jason Statham and Agata Buzek. **1.15** **SuperCasino. 3.10** **Wentworth Prison.** (R) **4.00** **Now That's Funny!** (R) **4.45** **House Doctor.** (R) **5.10** **House Busters.** (R) **5.35** **Wildlife SOS.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 **Nigel Kennedy** Plays Bach & Gershwin: BBC Biggest Weekend **8.00** **Cruel Sea: The Penlee Lifeboat Disaster 9.00** **World War Two: A Timewatch Guide 10.00** **Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered 11.00** **Night on Film - An A-Z of the Dark 12.00** **The Art of Scandinavia 1.00** **David Starkey's Music & Monarchy 2.00** **Classic Quartets at the BBC 3.00** **Cruel Sea: The Penlee Lifeboat Disaster 4.00** **Close**
ITV2
12.40 **Take Me Out 1.50** **You've Been Framed! Gold 2.50** **Film: Beethoven (1992) 3.50** **FYI Daily 3.55** **Film: Beethoven (1992) 4.40** **Film: Happy Feet (2006) 5.40** **FYI Daily 5.45** **Film: Happy Feet (2006) 6.45** **Film: Step Up 3 (2010) 7.50** **FYI Daily 7.55** **Film: Step Up 3 (2010) 9.00** **Love Island 10.00** **Love Island: Afterburn 11.05** **Family Guy 12.05** **American Dad! 1.05** **Celebrity 1.50** **Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.15** **Teleshopping 5.45** **ITV2 NightScreen**
ITV3
1.20 **Rosemary & Thyme 5.00** **Vera 9.00** **Unforgotten 11.00** **Classic Brit Awards 2018 12.30** **Blue Murder 1.55** **Liverpool 1 2.50** **Road to Avonlea 4.30** **Rosemary & Thyme 5.45** **ITV3 NightScreen**
ITV4
11.15 **Live British Touring Car Championship. Round five from Croft. 6.20** **Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) 7.20** **FYI Daily 7.25** **Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) 8.05** **Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) 9.10** **FYI Daily 9.15** **Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) 10.00** **Film: Lethal Weapon 2 (1989) 11.00** **FYI Daily 11.05** **Film: Lethal Weapon 2 (1989) 12.20** **River Monsters 1.20** **Minder 2.30** **The Protectors 3.00** **Teleshopping**
E4
11.00 **The Goldbergs 1.00** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine 1.35** **Young Sheldon 2.05** **The Big Bang Theory 6.05** **Film: Cheaper By the Dozen 2 (2005) 8.00** **The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special 9.00** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00** **Gogglebox 11.00** **Gogglebox Australia 12.05** **The Big Bang Theory 1.05** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 2.05** **Gogglebox Australia 11.00**
Film4
11.04 **Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) 1.00** **The Jewel of the Nile (1985) 3.10** **How to Train Your Dragon (2010) 5.00** **Night at the Museum (2006) 7.10** **The Cold Light of Day (2012) 9.00** **Lone Survivor (2013) 11.20** **Battle: Los Angeles (2011) 1.35** **Quadruphenia (1979) 4.00** **Close**

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Bank Holiday - 10.00am - 5.00pm

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Stolen Daughter, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A detective who specialises in finding missing children is banned from the case when her own teenager is abducted. But determined to find the girl, she defies her superiors and embarks on her own investigation to save her flesh and blood before it is too late. Crime drama, starring Andrea Roth, Nicole Munoz, Steve Bacic and Matthew Kevin Anderson. (2015)

TUESDAY
Perfect Seduction, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 Despite having left his girlfriend behind in New York City for a promotion in Portland, Brandon hopes that they can make things work long-distance. But his new co-worker Simone has other ideas and she impersonates both Brandon and his absent girlfriend in order to end their relationship. Thriller, starring Adrienne Frantz, Jon Cor and Ashley Leggat. (2015)

WEDNESDAY
Ex-Wife Killer, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A woman's ex-husband offers to help explain her floral business, but his his vengeful estranged wife seems determined to make the pair's life a living hell. Thriller, starring Marguerite Moreau, Jordan Belfi and Arianne Zucker. (2017)



Rocky III, Thursday, ITV, 10.55pm

THURSDAY
Rocky III, ITV, 10.55pm
 World heavyweight boxing champion Rocky Balboa settles down into a life of luxury - but a cloud appears on the horizon in the shape of ambitious contender Clubber Lang, whose brutal fighting style represents a serious threat to his title. Drama, starring Sylvester Stallone, Mr T, Burgess Meredith, Talia Shire, Burt Young, Carl Weathers and Hulk Hogan. (1982)

FRIDAY
Mad Max 2, ITV, 10.45pm
 A former cop haunted by his tragic past roams the wasteland of Australia in the aftermath of a nuclear war. He arrives at a besieged settlement and grudgingly helps protect the residents from a horde of marauding bikers who want to get hold of their valuable supply of petrol. Futuristic adventure sequel, starring Mel Gibson. (1981)

Susanna and Piers capture the mood of the nation

Have you ever thought to yourself: "I just don't have enough Piers Morgan in my life?"

Perhaps not. However, for those fans of Good Morning Britain who do enjoy listening to Morgan's controversial views at breakfast time, there is some good news – the former journalist and his co-host Susanna Reid are presenting a one-off prime-time edition of the show.

Announcing the programme on GMB a few weeks back, Morgan said it would be "this show, after the watershed", so no doubt the already controversial presenter will relish the opportunity to let off even more steam than he does at 8am.

He continued: "You know you think you've had enough of me in the mornings? Good news Britain, you're going to get a load of me in the evenings because we are having our first ever Good Evening Britain."

"We are coming to prime time – we're actually very excited about it. I won't have to get out of bed for that

until about mid-afternoon, it's going to be great."

Susanna jokingly added: "We've made the big time!"

Former tabloid editor Morgan is no stranger to controversy, and if anything he seems to have stepped up his provocation levels since his introduction as permanent GMB presenter in November 2015.

In the last few years, he has slammed model and actress Amber Rose for a knickerless tweet, taunted Hilary Clinton supporters after Donald Trump's presidential election victory, criticised a women's march in America, feuded with Harry Potter author JK Rowling, and is constantly trolling Kim Kardashian.

More recently, Piers made what many people thought was his most controversial point ever – stating that it is better to put the milk in a cup before the tea bag when making a brew.

In case you haven't noticed, there's a football match taking place this evening – England take on

Belgium in what could prove to be a pivotal final group game for Gareth Southgate's men at Kaliningrad Stadium in Russia – so Morgan and Reid will have plenty to discuss with their guests.

Depending on their previous results against Tunisia and Panama, the Three Lions could need a positive result against Roberto Martinez's talented Belgian side which came into the tournament as one of the favourites and includes Premier League stars Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne, Romelu Lukaku, Toby Alderweireld, Jan Vertonghen and Thibaut Courtois.

The GMB team will be gauging the mood of the nation following the big match, but whatever the result, Morgan will no doubt have plenty to say, as football is one of his passions.

He is a lifelong fan of Arsenal and was an outspoken critic of the club including now former manager Arsène Wenger on social media and on the radio, often calling for his sacking.



Good Evening Britain, Thursday, ITV, 9.15pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Britain's Best Junior Doctors BBC2, 7.30pm
 New series. Jo Brand hosts a quiz in which two teams of junior doctors from teaching hospitals around Britain, with in-house medical expert Dr Helen Lawal on hand to explain the medical jargon. The first heat features University Hospitals of Leicester v Kettering General Hospital, and the contestants tackle an array of rigorous questions ranging from diagnosing a patient's symptoms, prioritising cases in a mock A&E department, and getting stuck in with their chosen specialism, and the teams are competing for the highest score of the week to win a place in Friday's final.

TUESDAY
NHS at 70 - Live BBC2, 8pm
 As you may have noticed if you've been paying attention to the schedules lately, the National Health Service celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. But while we may be looking back at its history, what does its future hold? That's one of the questions posed by this live event, which comes from Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Hosted by Anita Rani and Nick Robinson in front of an audience of staff and patients, the programme

looks at how the NHS has grown since its inception in 1948 and explores the challenges facing it today, drawing on some new and exclusive research. As well as finding out how much the public are prepared to pay to keep the NHS going, Robinson, who was recently treated for cancer himself, looks at how the service compares to health provisions in other countries.

WEDNESDAY
The Highland Midwife Channel 5, 8pm
 New series. Morven treats a woman who wants a home birth, but when she is still in labour after more than 30 hours, a difficult decision must be made. Hazel helps a woman preparing for her third C-section, who fears she will not survive the procedure following complications with her previous births - and with her military husband away from home, it's up to the midwife to keep her calm. Finally, Ruth finds herself facing the possibility of delivering a baby in the back on an ambulance while they are still an hour away from the hospital.

THURSDAY
FIFA World Cup 2018 ITV, 6.15pm
 England v Belgium (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from both sides' final Group G match from Kaliningrad Stadium in Russia. England will be hoping to continue their good record against today's opponents, having won 15 of the 21 meetings between the two sides, the last occasion being a 1-0 victory back in June 2012. However, Gareth Southgate's men have won only four games at the group stages since France 98, and will be looking to give England fans more hope that they can progress further in the tournament than in previous years. The Three Lions will also be keen to improve on the fact that they haven't progressed past the quarter-finals since Italia 1990. Belgium also haven't made it past the same stage



FIFA World Cup 2018, Thursday, ITV, 6.15pm

since they finished fourth at the 1986 tournament in Mexico, when they were defeated 2-0 by Argentina in the semi-finals.

FRIDAY
Building Britain's Canals Channel 5, 8pm
 Writer and historian Dan Jones examines the creation of the picturesque Kennet and Avon Canal, which was born from a murky pool of dirty deals and demanding landowners. It came into being thanks to the genius of young engineer John Rennie, whose inspiration and innovations created a waterway that linked Bristol to London. Dan discovers how Rennie plotted the canal's route using the most basic of surveying instruments and marvels at the engineering innovations that made it all possible, such as the water-powered pumping station at Claverton. Last in the series.

The Bridge BBC2, 9pm
 The homeless girls discover the identity of the killer following an encounter with psychologist Niels Thormod, and try to get in touch with Henrik to pass on what they know. However, they are forced to flee for their lives when the murderer comes looking for them.

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Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

2	9	6	18			22			23	16	21	26
	17			9	17	21	4	16		14		16
12	16	21	2	6		3		5	20	21	15	1
	14			17		6		20		2		1
	15	6	14	7	6	14	2	13		24	18	20
19				6		11				8		21
6	25	19	24	7	13		2	17	14	14	24	14
17		6				12		2				5
15	17	5			11	18	6	17	8	21	14	5
21			16		17		8		24			24
10	20	21	2	4		4		11	9	21	8	15
21		20		6	25	21	15	11				11
2	9	6	10			14			12	6	6	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Y	O	U	P	W	K	L	R	H	S	Q	A	G
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
C	D	I	Z	X	E	T	M	V	B	N	J	F

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8 R	21
9	22
10	23
11	24 O
12	25
13	26

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Arrive round the vessel to join together (7)
7. See 21 Across.
9. Almost provide protection from fallen debris (5)
10. A group of actors on strike rejected (4,3)
12. Adopt a relaxed position and tolerate a bit of banter (5,2,4)
14. Not a single mistake by the serviceman! (6,5)
18. See 16 Down.
19. Social blunder in showing affection (5)
- 21 & 7Ac. Goes into hiding and arranges an insurance policy (5,5)
22. Inability to remember a name is changed (7)

Down

1. Soft cry of pain associated with the marsupial (5)
2. Take exception to the thing (6)
3. See 20 Down.
- 4 & 17Dn. This contains an amount of spirit to go with it (6,2,3)
5. Politely ask about a search (7)
8. Moving house - you'll need a motor and a pantechnicon (7)
11. Tacit description of postponed lawsuit (7)
13. Unsatisfactory statute, but it offered some relief (4,3)
15. Fat goat (6)
- 16 & 18Ac. Chief Scribes? (6,7)
17. See 4 Down.
- 20 & 3Dn. Threaten the little brat with death! (6)

	1		2		3			4		5	
6							7				
						8					
9					10						
				11							
		12									
	13										
14			15					16			
										17	
18							19				
						20					
21						22					

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Sportive (7)
7. Enchant (5)
9. Wide (5)
10. Pacify (7)
12. Banishment (11)
14. Allowable (11)
18. Stockings (7)
19. Drive (5)
21. Browbeat (5)
22. Tire (7)

Down

1. Plank (5)
2. Compassionate (6)
3. Muzzle (3)
4. Menace (6)
5. Liberty (7)
8. Shorten (7)
11. Associate (7)
13. Seemliness (7)
15. Principally (6)
16. Clear (6)
17. Meeting place (5)
20. Wages (3)

		3			4	7		
	2						3	
9		5	6		3			1
5			9		6			2
	8			4			5	9
2			1		8			7
4			7		9	2		6
	1						8	
		6		2		5		

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS >

6	5	3	4	2	9	1	7
4	9	7	8	5	1	2	6
2	8	1	7	6	3	4	5
7	2	8	3	1	6	5	9
3	1	6	9	4	5	7	8
9	4	5	2	7	8	6	3
8	6	2	5	3	4	9	1
1	7	9	6	8	2	3	4
5	3	4	1	9	7	8	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Come to rest; 7 Align; 8 Minaret; 10 Lose one's; 11 Step; 13 Damask; 15 Itches; 17 Wife; 18 Turncoat; 21 Yule-log; 22 Apace; 23 Friendless. Down: 1 Coins; 2 MongOOSE; 3 Temper; 4 Ring; 5 Streich; 6 Called away; 9 Type-setter; 12 Stone age; 14 Muffler; 16 Purged; 19 Opals; 20 Flee.
 QUICK - Across: 1 Stupendous; 7 Chart; 8 Contact; 10 Evermore; 11 Pair; 13 Treble; 15 Cinema; 17 Away; 18 Response; 21 Explore; 22 Pledge; 23 Paragon.
 Down: 2 Untimely; 3 Escort; 4 Done; 5 Unaware; 6 Accentuate; 9 Threatened; 12 Displace; 14 Example; 16 Recess; 19 Night; 20 Toss.

1. To which collection of stories does How The Leopard Got His Spots belong?	6. Who is the chief god of Scandinavian mythology?
2. Which city is at the centre of the Asian dollar market?	7. What nationality was Mata Hari?
3. Which former tennis star took Harry Carpenter's place at Wimbledon?	8. Of which country are the Chatham Islands part?
4. Which silk fabric's name is derived from the Persian for 'spun'?	9. What sort of creature is a knot?
5. Who was Henry VIII's last wife?	10. What do the letters J.P. stand for?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Parsifal and Lohengrin: 2 0: 3 Carbon:

4 The Atlantic: 5 Rembrandt: 6 Office of Fair

Trading: 7 Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin: 8 Epilepsy:

9 Dennis Potter: 10 Honduras.

Niner: SHOWERING

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

79228

92321

62547

gives a Biblical character.

gives a second Biblical character.

gives a third Biblical character.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Express & Star

Island hop heaven is a cruise

A GREEK island and Turkey escape is the best option for seafaring first-timers.

Up until now, I'd never been on a cruise before. As a frequent sufferer of sea sickness and loather of organised fun, the idea of being stuck on a floating city never quite appealed. So, a three-day cruise, travelling to two countries and stopping at a whopping four Greek Islands, seemed like the perfect opportunity to challenge my preconceptions.

As I arrive in Athens to board the 1,664-passenger Celestyal Olympia liner, I feel anxious. What if I get claustrophobic? What if I get the nasty norovirus bug that always seems to be popping up in the press?

Luckily, as soon as I'm shown to my cabin, I feel at ease. While my room, equipped with two single beds and a shower, is little more than a cubby, it's cosy and I feel safe. Exploring the ship, I quickly discover boredom is not going to be an option – there are multiple restaurants, bars, shops, performance rooms (this includes a disco and a theatre), a spa and swimming pools. Most importantly, the sprawling ship is impeccably clean throughout.

Time to party

Our first island stop is the 'party island' of the Greek Isles, Mykonos. Walking down the maze of stone streets littered with high-end bars and boutiques, it's easy to see why this island has an ultra-glamorous reputation. I enjoy gin cocktails in an al fresco bar, while trendy revellers dance to thumping Eurobeats. A 10.30pm curfew sends me scurrying back to the ship, but there's plenty of opportunities to party on-board.

Feline fun in Turkey

Come morning, we're already in another country – Turkey. Disembarking at Kusadasi, I head out for a guided tour of Ephesus, an Ancient Greek city dating back to the 10th century BC. Impressive ruins include an ancient theatre that once seated up to 25,000 and

Isle be there – the windy island of Mykonos



even the remains of a brothel. With a few hours to spare back on board before our next stop, I have time for an invigorating massage at the spa.

Finding pure peace

Next stop is Patmos, a Greek island with a spiritual atmosphere. Climbing the steep steps of the 11th century Monastery of Saint John the Theologian, I'm blown away by views of far-reaching farmland, dotted with pink island flowers. Another unforgettable site is the Cave of Apocalypse, where John of Patmos received the visions which he recorded in the Book of Revelation.

Picture perfect – the beautiful island of Santorini



On-board entertainment

With a heavy heart I leave this haven of tranquillity and am thrown into something quite different – night-time cruise entertainment. Sat on a velvet armchair in front of a stage, I'm transported back in time to Vegas showrooms of the 1950s – and although the cabaret entertainment is certainly cheesy, it's also hilarious.

Next stop is Crete, with a tour of the Minoan Palace of Knossos (built at the beginning of the Middle Minoan period from 2000-1580 BC), where the legend of the Minotaur was born. Today, 70 peacocks roam the ruins.

Picture perfect sunsets

Our penultimate stop is the island of Santorini. Yes, it's crowded, but you can easily dodge the masses by wandering the labyrinth of gleaming white streets. The wines cultivated here are excellent and served at many of the bars.

Before getting off the ship at Piraeus on the mainland, I end my voyage with yet another session of karaoke. As I knock back another cheeky G&T, I can't help but marvel about how wrong I was about cruises.

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Belbroughton Road, HALESOWEN £950 pcm+Fees
A newly decorated & superbly proportioned semi detached family home on the very popular development The Hurlands, being convenient for all local amenities. The property comprises front reception room with doors leading to large lounge with patio doors, fitted kitchen with appliances, 3 double bedrooms and bathroom with separate shower cubicle. The property benefits from a garage, gas central heating, double glazing, solar panels, and a lovely private rear garden. EPC: B



Hilston Avenue, HALESOWEN £750 pcm+Fees

A well presented 3 bedroom terraced house. Situated in a quiet cul de sac, close to local amenities and schools. Featuring a welcoming hallway, good size lounge, dining room, fully fitted kitchen, with 3 good size bedrooms and family bathroom with a separate shower cubicle. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking and, rear garden with far reaching views. VIEWING RECOMMENDED. EPC: C



NEW

Trejon Road, CRADLEY HEATH £750 pcm+Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a 3 bedroom detached property in a sought after location in Cradley Heath. This lovely house features a large through lounge with dividing doors, large modern kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single room, large house bathroom with a separate shower cubicle, driveway for 2 cars and a low maintenance rear garden. A DEAL WITH THE ELECTRIC BILL IS AVAILABLE WITH THE LANDLORD. EPC: D



Clement Road, HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH £880 pcm+Fees
Completely renovated larger than average three bedroom mid terrace property in a most convenient location close to Blackheath Town Centre and all amenities. Featuring 2 reception rooms, large fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 3 bedrooms private rear garden, on road parking. EPC: E



NEW

Attwood Street, HALESOWEN £625 pcm+Fees
A modern 2 bedroom semi-detached house close to central Halesowen and benefiting from a modern fitted kitchen, well presented living room, 2 good size bedrooms and family bathroom with shower, large rear garden, driveway for 2 cars. EPC: B



Aqua Court, ROWLEY REGIS £595 pcm+Fees
• 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE • Beautifully presented and not to be missed. A ground floor apartment, a stones throw away from Blackheath Town Centre and featuring 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, open plan lounge/kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: B



Bloomfield Street North, HALESOWEN £595 pcm+Fees
A superbly well presented fully refurbished 2 bedroom terraced property in this very well sought after area having lounge, stunning fitted kitchen with a small fridge and small freezer, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating. Must be viewed to appreciate. NO GARDEN. EPC: C



Cakemore Road, ROWLEY REGIS £595 pcm+Fees
A well presented 2 bedroom family home in this very popular location close to Rowley Regis train station & easy access to the M5. The accommodation comprises of 2 reception rooms both with fireplaces, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms. The property further benefits from central heating, double glazing, courtyard garden & off road parking to rear. EPC: D



The Heathlands, ROWLEY REGIS/BLACKHEATH £595 pcm+Fees
• 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE • Modern 2 bedroom mid terrace property close to Blackheath Town Centre and not far from Rowley Regis Train Station. Featuring a spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, upstairs bathroom, a very large master bedroom and a single bedroom, small rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing, driveway parking. EPC: C



Brett Young Close, HALESOWEN £575 pcm+Fees
• 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE • An impressive 1st floor apartment within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre briefly comprising of: 2 double bedrooms, spacious lounge, modern kitchen with appliances, modern bathroom with shower, allocated parking. MINIMUM CONTRACT 12 MONTHS. EPC: B



Grange Crescent, HALESOWEN £575 pcm+Fees
• 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE • We are pleased to offer this extremely well presented 2 bedroom 1st floor conveniently located close to Halesowen town centre and local amenities. The property comprises of: lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, bathroom suite with shower, central heating, large driveway, rear private garden & garage. EPC: D



Harden Court, HALESOWEN £575 pcm+Fees
An extremely well presented and newly decorated 2 bedroom ground floor apartment situated on this popular estate featuring a good size lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, warm air heating, garage en bloc. Available immediately. EPC: D



Hammersley Close, HALESOWEN £550 pcm+Fees
• UNDERGOING A RE-DECORATION • Located in the very quiet cul-de-sac, close to local buses to Halesowen, Cradley Heath and Merry Hill, also close to Cradley Heath Train Station, is this unfurnished mid terrace house, comprising of gas central heating, fitted kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: C



Wordsley Court, WORDSLEY £525 pcm+Fees
• 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE • 1st floor fully refurbished large apartment within walking distance of Wordsley Green & King George V park. Featuring lovely lounge, 2 generous size double bedrooms, fitted kitchen (no appliances), shower room, secure parking to rear of property. EPC: C



Whitehall Court, HALESOWEN £525 pcm+Fees
Centrally located to Halesowen Town Centre, this is well presented 1st floor flat with private entrance, hallway, kitchen with appliances, living room, bathroom with newly fitted shower, 2 good size bedrooms, communal garden & secure parking to rear of property. EPC: C



Luanne Close, CRADLEY HEATH £525 pcm+Fees
Wonderfully presented and with its own balcony, A 1st floor modern apartment, ideally located for Old Hill train station and local shops benefits from 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, modern kitchen with washer/dryer, lovely lounge with access to your own private balcony, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: B



Southgate Way, DUDLEY £499 pcm+Fees
• 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE • A stunning and spacious well presented furnished to suit 1st floor apartment featuring 2 bedrooms, electric storage heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen (includes a sofa, wardrobes and appliances, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: C



John Street, WORDSLEY £465 pcm+Fees
Close to local buses to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and a short walk from Amblecote, this 2 double bedroom terraced house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, on road parking and an enclosed rear garden. EPC: E



Great Western Drive, CRADLEY HEATH £425 pcm+Fees
A very well presented 1st floor apartment in a well sought after location. Ideal for Old Hill Train Station, local shops and bus links. This apartment features a great size lounge, modern kitchen with cooker/hob & dishwasher, bathroom with shower, plenty of storage including loft access and 2 storage cupboards. Allocated parking for 1 car plus visitor parking, communal gardens to the rear. EPC: D



Upper High Street, CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILL £395 pcm+Fees
Modern ground floor flat close to Cradley Heath train station & all bus routes. Featuring an open plan lounge/fitted kitchen with appliances, hallway to 1 double bedroom, bathroom suite with shower, electric central heating, communal garden to rear of property, on road parking. Only 1 months security deposit. • 1 months rent in advance. EPC: C



Somers Road, HALESOWEN £375 pcm+Fees
A 1 bedroom 1st floor apartment close to Halesowen Town Centre, offering generous accommodation which includes new carpets, featuring lounge with open plan kitchen, bedroom with en-suite shower room, double glazing, communal garden, on road parking, unfurnished. EPC: E



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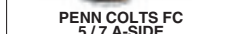
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Full Time General



Videographer Zaak takes with him all manner of kit

Ford Kuga takes to centre stage as star of video project

By Jack Evans

Modern SUVs, such as our Ford Kuga currently on test, need to be adept at all tasks. These include driving the kids to school, carrying five people in plenty of comfort across long distances or, in our car's case, transporting camera equipment and the tame lens-handler who accompanies it.

Our resident videographer Zaak takes with him all manner of kit, with large Peli cases full of lenses, camera bodies and sound equipment – taking up a good amount of space. Fortunately, the Kuga's decent-sized boot is square and deep enough to fit everything. With the seats folded flat, it offers up a competitive 1,603 litres of space.

It provided a comfortable and dependable base camp on a recent shoot, and really did live up to the go-anywhere idea behind these sort of compact SUVs – despite the Kuga's lack of four-wheel-drive.

It also dealt well with a recent jaunt up to Manchester. With the boot packed with luggage and the cabin filled with occupants, it managed to while away the 200 or-so miles from the south coast up north with very little fuss. Its passengers exited at the other end with few complaints.

The real bonus here is the smooth 1.5-litre diesel engine that settles down impressively well at motorway speeds and the automatic gearbox, which takes the sting out of stop-start traffic.



The Kuga posing for the camera!

Both occasions are real examples of how versatile the Kuga can be, and how capable it is when facing a number of challenges.

Ford claims that the Kuga should be able to return 58.9mpg combined, but the results we've been seeing are a little way short of this. Overall, we've been averaging around 45mpg – still decent for a car of this size, but a little disappointing given the official claims.

Is there anything we'd change, given the chance? The wheels, perhaps. Though the optional alloy wheels fitted to our ST-Line specification car do look good and give the Kuga a fair amount of presence, they generate quite a lot of noise and give a sharpness to the way the car rides. It's certainly not uncomfortable, but if you're after top-notch ride quality, then we'd be opting for a smaller alloy size.

We'd also like to change the gear selector, as we're finding it too easy to slip into 'Sport' by mistake. It's located underneath 'drive' in the gearbox's gate, and can easily be selected when bringing the gearstick down.

You're then left wondering as to why the car is hanging on to gears quite so eagerly; it's meant to do this in sport mode, but it's often quite disconcerting when you haven't meant to select it.

The rubbery feeling to the steering remains whichever mode you're in, but in truth you soon get accustomed to it.

The same can be said for the Kuga's driving position, which is relatively high and confidence-inspiring, but somewhat different to any other SUV on sale today.

Overall, our Kuga is proving capable in all manner of conditions, and is showcasing just how useful these compact SUVs can be – and certainly why they're experiencing huge popularity at the minute. There are niggles, of course, but they're relatively small.

It's likely that the Kuga will be in frequent use in the coming months – during summer time, the extra space that a SUV affords makes it ideal for camping trips, runs to the tip and everything in between, so we'll see just how it gets on with all manner of activities.

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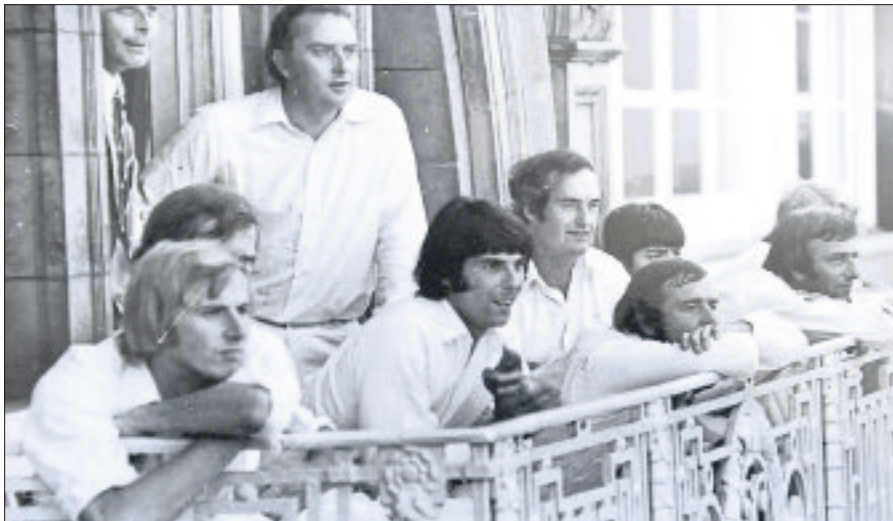
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Wolverhampton players watch from the balcony during the game at Lord's in 1973



175th anniversary dinner. From left Rachel Heyhoe Flint, Peter Baxter, chairman Andy Timmins and president David Barnes

Danescourt mourning loss of legend Barnes

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

TRIBUTES have been paid to Wolverhampton Cricket Club legend David Barnes following his death at the age of 80.

As a player, captain, chairman and president, Barnes was with the club for a stunning 65 years – making him the longest-serving member in their 183-year history.

He led the Danescourt men to victory in the final of the National Knockout – then known as the DH Robins Cup – at Lord's in 1973, beating Maidstone-based Mote, with Barnes scoring the winning runs.

Barnes, from Tettenhall, played 'well into his fifties' and returned to Lord's for the final of the competition in 1988, which Wolves lost to Enfield in a replayed game at Edgbaston after the original tie had been washed out.

Committee member David Lycett – who been with the club for 60 years, also as a player and chairman – was a close friend of Barnes's, and said: "He was here with us at the club for 65 years. He went to Tettenhall College and joined the club in his teens.

Regard

"David took us to Lords in '73 for the final of the National Knockout, and that was a really big deal. I wasn't playing for the firsts then but we all went down to watch and it was a great day.

"We weren't in the Birmingham League at the time. We were still in the old Midland Club Championship, which we won year in and year out.

"The competition had only been going for a few years and we were the first team from the Midlands to win it, beating Mote. He then went again in '88 as a player, under the late Pete Jones – and not many can say they've been able to go and play there, at Lord's twice. He played well into his 50s. He was a fine cricketer and a fine supporter of our club. I held him in the highest regard."

Barnes, as well as playing for Wolverhampton,



David hits the winning runs at Lord's

also turned out for Shropshire in the minor counties, Worcestershire's seconds and Staffordshire's over-50s. He was a batsman but also useful with the ball, with his off-spin.

He went with the Midlands Cricket Club Conference to Australia in the 70s and captained the Wolverhampton Cricket Association side which toured the West Indies in 1976.

"David was fully committed to the club. His two sons, Richard and James, played for the club too – James has retired now, Richard still turns out for Bromsgrove and I'm sure his son plays, so cricket is in their family," said Lycett. "He was a personal friend of mine, we went on holidays together. He was just wonderful. He will be greatly missed."

Club president Geoff Hopkinson was also part of the 1973 national knockout trophy-winning side.



David with a copy of the iconic picture

"I was the opening bat in that team, David was a very fine off-spinner – he was always among the wickets," he said. "He always fielded first slip too as he didn't like running.

"That day, we were at the home of cricket and it was an honour. We had a very good side, an exceptional side, which was led with aplomb – David was a thinking cricketer. He played until his late 50s and when we were playing together, we would have been playing about 60 matches a year. I took over as president from him, he did a hell of a lot behind the scenes as well. Without characters like him, it's hard for clubs to survive. He pointed the way."

Chairman Mike Elphick added: "Having recently become chairman of the club, I was aware of David's long and considerable contribution both on and off the field. He will be sadly missed."



David, front left, and former team-mates celebrate 40 years since winning The Derrick Robins Trophy at Lord's

Frankie goes to the Black Country team

FORMER British and Commonwealth champion Frankie Gavin has signed a one-year management contract with Black Country Boxing Promotions.

The 32-year-old held the British and Commonwealth titles between 2012 and 2015 and challenged Kell Brook for the IBF welterweight title in 2015.

As an amateur, Birmingham fighter Gavin won a gold medal at the 2007 World Championships, becoming England's first ever winner of that event. He also won lightweight gold at the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

"I'm delighted to have Frankie on board," said BCB's head of boxing Errol Johnson. "He's one of the most talented boxers that Britain has produced and I believe there are still some very big fights out there for him.

"Frankie knows what we expect of him, and vice-versa, so I'm relishing the opportunity to get him to where we both think he should be."

Gavin said: "I'm glad to be signing with Errol. I have known him a long time and I know he can guide me to a few more successful nights in my career. There's some big fight news coming soon so watch this space."

Midlands Leagues structure confirmed

THE Midlands Leagues structure for next season has been confirmed after an RFU panel dismissed Melbourne's appeal against relegation from Midlands One West. Melbourne will play in Midlands Two East North next season with ten North Midlands clubs in the 14-club Midlands One West.

Kidderminster Carolians have been level-transferred from Midlands Two West North to Midlands Two West South where they will face ten clubs from Warwickshire.

Places have been left open for Oswestry, who are considering returning to the Midlands Leagues from the North where there has been league restructuring, and also Dixons.

Birmingham & Solihull, who won the Midlands Premier title last season, will play in National Two South next season with Stourbridge remaining in National Two North and Birmingham Moseley in National One. Three North Midlands clubs, Birmingham Barbarians, Five Ways OE and Dudley Wasps will continue to play their rugby outside of the league structure.

Baggies face Hatters in Carabao opener

ALBION have been drawn at home to League One Luton Town in the first round of the Carabao Cup.

The Baggies enter the competition in the first round next season after finishing bottom of the Premier League.

Villa are away at League Two Yeovil Town, while Walsall travel to League Two Tranmere Rovers. It means Saddlers' new striker Andy Cook makes an immediate return to his former club.

"I'm a little bit shocked," Cook said. "I've only just left and I didn't think it'd be that quick that I'd go back to play against them."

"It'll be nice to go back and see what reaction they give me."

Fixtures will take place during the week commencing Monday, August 13. Extra-time has been removed, so the ties go straight to penalties, reverting to the traditional alternating format, if scores are level after 90 minutes. VAR will also be used in all League Cup fixtures played at Premier League stadiums next term.



Teens star in Halesowen clean sweep

IT was a stunning week Halesowen Cricket Club as all four teams brought home victories in their matches.

At North End Lane Halesowen first XI defeated Barnards Green by eight wickets after dismissing their hosts for 88. Charlie Hartley took 5 for 29 and Masharaf Shazad polished off the tail with four wickets for one run in 6.2 overs. An unbeaten 57 from Ed Kilbee eased Halesowen to fifth spot with bottom placed Wellington visiting Seth Somers Park this weekend.

Captain Alexei Kervezee said: "Credit to Charlie Hartley as he carried the attack which put them under a lot of pressure. Ed Kilbee was calmness personified as he coaxed the ball round the ground to lead us home. I was also delighted again with Mushy (Masharaf Shazad). Each week he contributes with the bat or ball and at 18 is one of the first names on the team sheet."

The second team endured a nail biter against Barnt Green. Chasing down 223 they relied on captain Joe Tromans (63) and Mohammed Shaub (59). It was left to 17-year-olds Nathan Hines and Archie Reeves to see the team home with just one ball left.

The third team had a resounding victory against Himley posting 252-4 before ploughing through Himley's batting dismissing them for 118. The fourths picked up their first win beating Himley thanks to a 110 run partnership between Alex Farrar (75) and 13-year-old Rayaan Ahmed (46) to chase down 223 and win by six wickets.

Hagley and Pelsall move step closer to a Lord's final

HAGLEY and Pelsall are starting to dream of Lord's after powering into the last 32 of the National Village Knockout.

Both sides made light work of their regional showdowns at the weekend with Pelsall easing to a nine-wicket win at Quatt in the Shropshire, Staffs and West Midlands group while Hagley saw off Astwood Bank by seven wickets in the Worcestershire showdown.

Pelsall now face a trip to Northamptonshire-based Barby - who play in the Warwickshire League - on Sunday.

Pennell (3-20) and Dan Whale (3-29) helped dismiss Quatt for 153 before an unbeaten 71 from Todd Henderson and 57no from Alex Jones saw them home.

Hagley have already tasted success at Lord's this year, with their side winning the ECB Indoor title, and now they are chasing a return.

They restricted Astwood Bank to 181-9 in 40 overs with skipper Michael Stead picking up 4-31.

Stead then led his side home with 47 not out, gaining support from Jon McDonnell (43) and James Trinham (35).

Walking football pair to play for country



Pete Gibbons, left, and John Cooper

TWO members of Dudley-based Hartshill Strollers Walking Football Club have been chosen to play for England.

Striker John Cooper has been picked for the Over 60 squad, and goalkeeper Pete Gibbons for the over-50s. Both are set to make their debuts for their country later this year. The double call-up is a remarkable achievement for the club formed less than four years ago.

Cooper and Gibbons have made it through to their respective 21-man squads after trials involving more than 250 hopefuls from up and down the country. Both now

have their sights set on the first European Cup next year - and the inaugural World Cup in 2020.

Cooper, a 62-year-old commissioning engineer, of Woodcross, Wolverhampton, is one of the country's leading club goal-scorers, having once netted 14 times in a single tournament.

Key account manager Gibbons, aged 55, of Ettingshall Park, Wolverhampton, is regarded as one of the best shot-stoppers in walking football and won his England place despite having played in the trials with a broken finger.

OH MAN! RIDER ON A TT SPREE

A WIN, a podium and two top-six finishes - once again the Isle of Man TT was a successful hunting ground for Brierley Hill rider Michael Rutter.

Despite ending a stunning two weeks of racing with a breakdown, Rutter played his part in one of the most scintillating fortnights in recent memory.

With records tumbling in all-bar-one race, the 46-year-old more than played his part in the gripping action by taking victory in the TT Zero race - setting a new lap record, with an average speed of 121.824mph on an electric bike, on his way to securing his sixth TT win on the Honda Mugen.

With a third-placed finish in the lightweight on his Bathams Paton, and top-six finishes in the opening superbike race and last week's superstock - both on Bathams BMW 1000RRs - he entered Friday's Senior TT back on his superbike full of confidence but was forced to retire from the race on lap four.

Lapping

Perfect weather conditions greeted the riders as they set out around the 37.73-mile mountain course for the final six-lap race of the fortnight.

Rutter had slotted into ninth place after lapping at an average speed of 128.432mph but then slipped to 11th with a 126.606mph effort.

After pitting for fuel and new rear tyre at the end of the second, he continued in the race but was down in 15th after a 121.465mph lap, so he decided to pit again to see if his mechanics could rectify the problem.

Rutter said: "I kept plugging away but the bike was getting worse and worse. When I pitted at the end of lap four, we found out the steering damper bracket had broken.

"It wasn't possible to repair it and even if we had I'd have lost so much time I'd have been way down the order, so there was little option other than to retire. But, overall, I've got to be happy with a first, third, fifth and sixth from the four races I've finished.

Table tennis ace in England call



Following her latest wins over top seeds Charlotte Bardsley, 15, has been recruited by England

STOURBRIDGE table tennis ace Charlotte Bardsley has landed another England call.

The talented teenager has been named in the national squad for the European Youth Championships in Romania next month.

The 15-year-old will travel to Cluj-Napoca for the event, which runs July 15-24 and features team and individual competitions.

The latest representative honour follows her inclusion in the senior squad for the Team World Cup in London earlier this year where she was called up to sample the atmosphere of a top competition. Bardsley will head to Ro-

mania in confident mood following two more impressive individual successes.

She 'upgraded' from the under-16 to under-19 title at the Butterfly National School Individual Championships. Bardsley won the under-16 title last year and this time took home the top age category crown when she overcame Mollie Patterson 3-1 in the final.

Bardsley dominated the PG Mutual Cadet & Junior National Championships in Wolverhampton. She only dropped one set in the junior girls' singles when already 3-0 up in the final, beating fourth seed Jasmin Wong 4-1.

Rivalries are renewed in battle for belt

MATT Sen and Josh Burke will renew their rivalry in a Black Country battle for the eight-round British Challenge cruiserweight title.

Sen has been paired with Burke for a title fight at the Venue, Dudley, on Saturday, July 7.

Unbeaten Sen will also put his unbeaten record on the line against Burke, who on a previous challenge last year, was stopped in four rounds by Dilly Singh.

Burke, 32, has additionally been beaten by Russell Henshaw and Courtney Richards on points as a pro, but has beaten Lee Jones and Rolandas Cesna over-the-distance.

Sen - full name Matthew Sennett - is, like Burke, from Wolverhampton. He's originally from Heath Town, but now lives in Oldbury. The 30-year-old has recorded three points wins since turning over against Dmitriy Kalinovskij, Henshaw and Kevin Williams.

Six undercard bouts have been scheduled to support the main event featuring Danny Ball, of Kingswinford, Josh Miller, from Dudley, Connor Lee Jones, from Brierley Hill and Brummies Aaron Lovell and debutant Daryl Pearce.

Also in action will be Wolverhampton's Kirstie Bavington, who will be looking to bounce back after battling to a draw on her paid bow. The 25-year-old could not be parted from the experienced Borislava Goronova.

Tickets are £35 or £50 ringside, available by calling 07976 283 157.

Cradley skipper is out with broken arm

CRADLEY HEATHENS skipper Adam Roynon is facing a spell on the sidelines after crashing while riding for Plymouth last week.

The Heathens club legend was taken to hospital during during the Plymouth Devils' narrow defeat at the Isle of Wight Warriors.

And it was later revealed he had suffered a broken humerus bone in his arm, as well as a dislocated shoulder.

No timescale on his absence has been announced, though the Heathens do not race again until July 2 when they take on Birmingham Brummies in a home National Trophy clash at Monmore.

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